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CHILDREN INHALING NITROUS OXIDE

Sinn Fein TD John Brady and Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien have expressed alarm at the rocketing use of Nitrous Oxide by young people across Wicklow. They expressed their concern following the discovery of over a dozen large canisters of the gas which is commonly known as 'laughing gas' in a children's playground in Ballywaltrim in Bray.

Deputy Brady said "Following concerns expressed to me by local parents of children as young as 12 using Nitrous Oxide at the playground in Ballywaltrim, myself and my colleague Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien visited the area. We were shocked to see up to a dozen large empty canisters of Nitrous Oxide which is sometimes called 'Hippy Crack' or 'Laughing Gas' thrown around the area.

"I have had people from right across the County expressing

similar concerns too, so it's not just a localised issue. Over the last couple of years we used to see small single use canisters, known as silver bullets, discarded around the place. Now they have been replaced by large canisters which have super doses in them.

"Those large canisters are being sold on the street and online for €40 each. Unscrupulous dealers are making vast profits from the sale of nitrous oxide, and its widespread use is resulting in antisocial

behaviour, litter, and it is damaging to people's health, particularly for children who are still developing.

"A young person taking Nitrous Oxide is playing Russian roulette, because they do not know the effect that the gas is going to have on them until they take it. A recent report published by the HSE shows that the gas causes a range of sensory issues in patients who have presented, including a numbness in their hands, feet and extremities, serious



Michelle O'Neill, Niamh Whelan, Siobhan Murphy, Clíodhna Bourke and Melisa Ryan are pictured at the Market Square Summer Sessions event in Wicklow Town. Pic: Michael Kelly



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issues with balance, problems with their heart rate, and mental health issues.

"Immediate action needs to be taken by the Government on this important issue. Sinn Fein have brought forward legislation in the Oireachtas that will regulate the sale of Nitrous Oxide to commercial use only. Currently the gas can be openly purchased online by anyone.

"This is like legislation introduced in Holland where authorities are regulating the use of nitrous oxide outside the medical and catering industries. This Bill will not criminalise young people for simple possession of nitrous oxide, however it would give the Gardai the power to seize the canisters."

Cllr O'Brien feels that

we shouldn't underestimate the risks associated with Nitrous Oxide: "It would be easy to dismiss the issue or downplay it because 'it's only laughing gas' or 'it only lasts a few seconds' and at the same time it's easy to understand why young people are drawn to it because it is simple to consume, and the effects are instant!

"We also have companies who appear to be marketing Fastgas by highlighting the positive effects of misuse and merely referencing the legitimate industrial use in the small print! They have QR codes on the canisters which bring you to the website where you are offered Free shipping, discreetly packaged, and delivered, high quality gas.

Continued on page 3

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For further details or to book go to:
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Colour Run for Will's Playground

Saturday 2nd September, 1pm, Leamore Lane, Newcastle

Get ready to experience a vibrant and exhilarating day filled with fun, laughter, and a burst of colors. Will's Colour Run is a unique fun run where participants are doused from head to toe in a rainbow of powdered colours. Places are limited!

"Join us as we raise vital funds to build Will's Playground in the grounds of St. Francis National School in Newcastle, an enduring legacy in memory of Will Leeson. As you embark on this exciting journey, you'll find yourself immersed in a lively atmosphere, surrounded by enthusiastic runners, joggers and walkers of all ages."

The course in the heart of Newcastle village is designed to be enjoyable and accessible, allowing participants to walk, jog, or run at their own pace. Along the way, you'll encounter various color zones where volunteers will shower you with vibrant colored powders, turning your white shirt into a masterpiece of hues.

Don't worry, the powders used are non-toxic and easily washable, ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for all.

At the finish line, you'll be greeted with a grand celebration, complete with music and even more colour throws. Join in the festivities and revel in the sense of accomplishment as you cross the finish line, covered head to toe in a kaleidoscope of colours. Continue the fun at the post race BBQ!



Hozier turning the sod on the new playground, with Will's parents Julie and Andrew.

So, grab your running shoes, put on your brightest attire, and get ready to be a part of Will's Colour Run. It's a day where fitness meets fun, and memories are made.

Will's Playground is to be built in memory of Will Leeson, a pupil of the school who sadly died in October 2021 when he was just 8 years old. The school is hoping to raise

€65,000 towards building the playground, which will be an enduring legacy in his memory.

Famous musician and Newcastle resident Andrew John Hozier-Byrne (Hozier) has lent his support to local St. Francis National School in its fundraising campaign for the new playground.

Hozier attended a ceremony at the school in June,

along with Will's parents Andrew and Julie and sister Emily, to turn the sod on the new playground.

Tickets available from:
<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/wills-colour-run-tickets-688062061147>. Cost - €12 per child, €12 per adult, Family of 2 adults and 2 children €45, 2 adults and 3 children €55.

Tinseltown is coming to Newcastle

Get your glitz and glamour ready for Newcastle Parish's Hollywood themed Fair on Saturday 26th August from 12pm to 4pm in St. Francis' School Grounds. Entrance and parking are free.

Speaking about the Fair, Ross Styles, Rector Newcastle & Newtownmountkennedy said: "We're all really looking forward to our annual themed Summer Fair. It's always a fun family day out and all our neighbours in surrounding communities are particularly welcome."

"There will be lots of stalls, and something for everyone- toys, books, bric-a-brac, clothes, cakes, country pantry, sweetshop, bottles, plants & flowers. And for the kids there will be jar hoopla, wheel of fortune, face painting, bouncy slide, fancy dress competition and lots of games," concluded Rev. Ross Styles.

Refreshments include: teas, burgers, hot dogs, filled rolls, veggie food, chips, ice cream and drinks. Everyone welcome, fancy dress is optional.

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Catherine and Aoibhinn Gargan from Kilcoole at the Heart Children Summer Picnic in Airfield Estate, Dundrum, where children born with congenital heart disease (CHD) - the most common birth defect worldwide - and their families, enjoyed the fun of a Mad Hatters Scavenger Hunt. Heart Children supports people born with CHD, a term that describes over 40 conditions that result when a baby's heart develops incorrectly during pregnancy. There is no cure for CHD and those born with the condition can require successive surgeries and lifetime medical management.

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We Can Quit stop smoking programme in Bray

Would you like to stop smoking? Or have you tried before and feel you could benefit from more support to help you quit?

Bray Area Partnership is running two free We Can Quit stop smoking programmes in Bray this autumn: an evening course starting on 6th September in the Vevay Road area and a morning course starting on 26th October in Little Bray.

Each course runs for seven weeks and will offer group support, one-to-one support and free stop smoking medication. You must be living in the Bray or north Wicklow area to qualify to attend.

People who have attended the course to date have found it really beneficial - as one participant said: "We Can Quit gave me the confidence to try to stop smoking. The weekly meeting with other smokers really helped as you feel you are part of a team working together to support each other. I especially appreciated the phone call after the weekend - when will power would be running low after struggling to socialise without cigarettes."

The We Can Quit programme is part of the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme, which aims to provide support to people in local communities to make real and tangible changes in their lives to improve their health.

To find out more and register call Karen Hammond at Bray Area Partnership on 01 286 8266 or 083 334 2590. See www.brayareapartnership.ie for more information.

Firefighters suspend strike action

It was announced last Thursday that retained firefighters would suspend their ongoing industrial strike action over pay and conditions in response to recent negotiations between SIPTU and the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA), by acknowledging that some progress had been made in respect of minimum earnings.

Responding to the news, Sinn Féin TD John Brady said "Following ten weeks of a rolling campaign of industrial strike action by retained firefighters, this represents the first meaningful response by the Government and its representatives in the LGMA.

"With retained firefighters having been forced into action as a result of a crippling recruitment and retention crisis in the service brought on by poor pay and working conditions, there is an onus on the government to address the core issues at the heart of the dispute.

"And while I acknowl-

edge that we have witnessed some movement on the issue of minimum earnings, it will ultimately be the decision of the retained firefighters whether they decide to accept this or not.

"Particularly as we await the publication of the full recommendations from the WRC, which have yet to be seen. I have no doubt the members of the retained fire service are also eagerly awaiting to see the full content. Minister Darragh O'Brien must act in the best interests of the retained fire service and its membership to bring this dispute to closure."

In Greystones,

Independent councillor Stephen Stokes, after attending a recent protest outside Greystones Fire Station, called on the Government to invest in the emergency services of Ireland.

Cllr Stokes stated: "I am proud to stand with our firefighters. The situation in County Wicklow is at breaking point. We need urgent investment in our fire services. We have too few firefighters, for too little pay. They put their lives on the line every day. All they want is fair consideration. This is very reasonable."

Cllr Stokes wrote to Minister Darragh O'Brien urging an investment in

the fire service across Ireland. Cllr Stokes added: "In Greystones our firefighters seem to be on call indefinitely, because of staffing shortages. If people are treated badly in any work place, they will eventually leave. Our firefighters are an important pillar of the community. They have the full support of the community.

"The Wicklow firefighters are doing an additional service by highlighting the need for urgent recruitment and retention. This equally applies to the Gardaí and ambulance services. This has started an important discussion that needs to be addressed."



Rose, David, Daniel and Jack O'Rourke at the St. Catherine's Association summer event on the grounds of Newcastle Hospital last Wednesday.

'Dwindling Garda resources having serious implications'

It's been revealed that the Wicklow garda district has the fourth fewest gardai per head in the State, with 192 officers per 100,000. Waterford has the highest ratio with 296 Gardai per 100,000. In the last five years Garda numbers in Wicklow have fallen from 360 to 310 which is just under 14% of the force in the county. Furthermore, concerns have been raised that Gardai would be transferred from Wicklow to Dublin to address anti-social and criminal activity in the capital.

"The dangerously low number of Gardai in Wicklow is having serious negative implications for communities right across Wicklow," said Sinn Féin TD John Brady.

"The ongoing drop in Garda figures in Wicklow comes at a time when a quarter of Garda Stations in the state report staff reductions. Incredibly over 40 Garda Stations are not staffed. The fact that Wicklow garda district has the fourth fewest

gardai per head in the State, with 192 officers per 100,000 is a damning indictment on this government.

"There is a serious lack of a visible presence of Gardai right across Wicklow and this is having a major negative impact on the community. Many people are saying that it's impossible to get a Garda when one is needed.

"One constituent told me that a Garda pleaded

with them to contact whoever they could, to try to get more resources for them in the County. This is the legacy of Fine Gael, Fianna Fáil and the Green Party in Government.

"In the last five years Bray has lost 23 Gardai. This despite the increasing growth of the town, and its proximity to South Dublin. In total 14 of the 17 Garda Stations in Wicklow have seen their numbers decrease over the last decade. This is

happening at a time when anti-social behaviour and criminality is devastating communities across the County.

"We have two senior government Ministers and a Green Party TD here in Wicklow. They have the power to act in this situation. Gardai need to be resourced. They need the numbers to carry out their role safely, and to guarantee the safety of our communities. They need to climb out of their ivory towers and see what's happening on the ground due to their failure to give the Gardai the resources they need, the running down of Garda numbers in Wicklow is unacceptable and cannot

be allowed to continue."

Deputy Brady has spoken of the need for the Minister for Justice Helen McEntee and Garda management to avoid attempting to address the shortage of Gardai necessary to address anti-social and

criminal activity on the streets of Dublin, by transferring personnel from Wicklow, even on a temporary basis. Particularly given the wide coverage given to a number of high-profile incidents in the capital

over the last number of weeks, which has placed both the Minister and Garda management under pressure.

Deputy Brady said: "There is no doubt that the levels of street crime, particularly anti-social

and violent crime, on the streets of Dublin is wholly unacceptable and needs to be urgently addressed. But it also needs to be stressed that the solutions for Dublin's crime problems will not be found in Wicklow."



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CHILDREN INHALING NITROUS OXIDE



Deputy John Brady and Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien with Nitrous Oxide cylinders at Ballywaltrim Playground

Continued from page 1...

"We have called for this before but it's worth restating that conversations need to be had at Government level, community level and within families. Access and availability are issues that must be tackled, information and awareness about potential risks must be shared widely and we must also have open and honest conversations with young people about what draws them into the world of substance use. The last thing we need is the hypocrisy of adults demonising young people for making uninformed choices about their substance use."

Deputy Brady concluded "I have raised the issue with the Gardai and asked them to increase their presence in the area to help stop the usage of the gas and the antisocial behaviour that stems from it. I would also appeal to parents to be mindful of their children and to have a conversation with them about the dangers of Nitrous Oxide."

Foreign Ambassadors get tour of Tiglin



Phil Thompson, Tiglin CEO, pictured with Lithuanian and Georgian Ambassadors Marijus Gudynas and George Zurabashvili, Tiglin Chairman and cofounder Aubrey McCarthy, ret Judge Gillian Hussey, and the Ukrain, Mexico, Israel, Poland, and Slovak ambassadors to Ireland Larysa Gerasko, Carolina Zaragoza Flores, Lironne Bar-Sadeh, Anna Sochanska and Andrej Droba.

Members of the International Diplomatic community to Ireland attended an event last week at Tiglin's facility in Coolnagreina, Greystones, home to over 100 Ukrainian nationals, alongside Tiglin's aftercare, family support and youth cafe services. New multimedia facilities have now now also been installed at Tiglin.

Ambassadors to Ireland for Ukraine, Poland, Israel, Lithuania, Mexico and Georgia were in attendance. Following the success of the National Ukrainian Day event at Tiglin's Coolnagreina Centre in June, these members of the diplomatic community returned again to offer their support for the work of Tiglin.

"Events such as these offer a great opportunity for countries to share their culture and interests in Irish charities, leaving legacies and impressions on Irish society," Tiglin Chairman Aubrey McCarthy stated.

"The facilities at Greystones youth cafe have been built and supported by many local people, businesses and churches as well as Wicklow County Council, and once again, these facilities have

received the generous support of others who gathered today."

The event highlighted the variety of work that Tiglin undertakes at the Greystones facility. The focus of last week's visit was the new multimedia system that will facilitate several pro-social activities at Greystones Youth Cafe on Trafalgar Road.

"The event displayed that internationally we value the importance of investing in services for young people; we know that when we come together, we make life richer for those who live in our communities and towns. Facilities such as this youth cafe, run by Tiglin, are vital and provide safe spaces for our youth to socialise, learn and have fun."

With increases in the waiting

times for services such as CAMHS, increased rates of prescriptions for anti-depressants in adolescents and growing rates of anxiety amongst our youth, it is important that targeted interventions such as Greystones youth cafe are recognised as a valid means to meet some of the growing needs among young people.

Currently open two days a week, the cafe plans to build towards being open 5-7 days a week. Now, the facilities include a pizza oven, a barista coffee machine and an outdoor seating area and now the cafe benefits from having multimedia equipment that can project movies in high quality and sound, making it another attractive option for young people in Greystones socialise, talk and find their place in the community.

Annual achievement awards presented in Baltinglass

Thirteen people were honoured for their outstanding achievements recently by the Members of Baltinglass Municipal District at an event to present the Cathaoirleach's annual achievement awards.

The individuals honoured at the event were: Jill Fadden, Lucy Mulhall, Bridget (Dilly) Whittle, Jason Mulhall, Billy Tyrell, Eileen Flanagan, Julie Walsh and Richard Burke. Individuals unable to attend on the night and will receive their awards at a later date are: George Hadden, Jim Schofield, Nicky Lacey, Noel Nagle and Louise Quinn.

Municipal District Cathaoirleach, Cllr Edward Timmins, said he was delighted to make these presentations to some very special recipients adding that it was a truly memorable event with recipients representing a varied spectrum of

talents including music, literature, sport and charity work.

He stated: "None of the recipients here this evening sought recognition, rather, their deeds are worthy of it. From Community work to Local Heroes, from covering great distances to competing on the world stage. Each and every one of you should be proud of what you have accomplished. You deserve this award tonight."

"I was delighted to be able to invite along your family and friends to be here, for the value of achievements is added to when you can celebrate with those closest to you. I would like to acknowl-

edge the support that they have given to you over the course of your endeavours. To them I say there is no greater power and support you can give someone than to look them in the eye, and with sincerity and conviction say, I believe in you."

Breege Kilkenny, Baltinglass District Manager, congratulated each individual on their achievement which gave an insight into the dedication, effort, skill and courage being recognised by the District.

Each recipient was presented with a gift of a personalised engraved slate, in a timber presentation box, produced locally by Laser Now.

Award Winners

Jill Fadden - Representative for the Wicklow U14 Girls Football Team Winners of the All-Ireland Bronze Final 2023 battled it out on the field against Clare to bring home an All - Ireland title to Wicklow, and in so doing, bringing honour to the District.

Lucy Mulhall - Captain of the Irish 7s Rugby Team who recently qualified for next year's Olympics. Member of the Ireland 15 Ladies Rugby Team, Member of the Wicklow Ladies Junior 2011 Team, Member of Tinahely Ladies GAA, and in so doing, bringing honour to the District.

Brigid (Dilly) Whittle - a proud Clare woman who has become the Heart & Soul of Community life in the Village of Donard. Principal of the National School in Donard, set up Comhaltas in Donard, giving every child in the community the opportunity to learn Irish music, held monthly Mini Fleadhs all over the County. Founding Member of Donard ICA, and in so doing, bringing honour to the District.

Jason Mulhall - Blessington Tidy Towns. Tireless work with Tidy Towns for over a decade, Blessington District Forum, Blessington Town Team, The West Wicklow Environmental Network, PPN Representative on the County Wicklow LCDC and in so doing, bringing



Cllr Edward Timmins, Cathaoirleach of Baltinglass Municipal District

honour to the District.

Billy Tyrell - Parnell AC, Wicklow Championship in 2022, Leinster Gold Medals in 1500m and 3000m, Leinster Road Race

Championship medal winner, Cross Country championship medal winner in Cork 2022, So many other Leinster and National titles, too many to mention, World Gold Medal for the over 65 team in Poland this year, and in so doing, bringing honour to the District.

Eileen Flanagan - The Tinahely St. Vincent de Paul Society. Spearheaded the Tinahely St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Older Peoples Resource Centre in Tinahely over many years and in so doing, bringing honour to the District.

Julie Walsh - Julie's Sister and Brother-in-law passed away only weeks apart, sadly leaving three-year-old twins, Caoimhe and Sinead, orphaned. Julie left her job in Dublin and moved back to the Glen to raise her two nieces. Julie has

dedicated her life to the twins and doesn't regret a minute of it and in so doing, bringing honour to the District.

Richard Burke - For years of dedicated work and commitment to local community and sporting groups, such as Local Tidy Towns and Hollywood GAA and in so doing, bringing honour to the District.

George Hadden - Member of the Ireland U20 Rugby Team, Member of the Clontarf Rugby Club, played for Tinahely GAA club from juvenile to minor and in so doing bringing, honour to the District.

Jim Schofield - Jim's Covid Project was completed in the cramped quarters of his extended

garage, where he self-built the 19ft McIntyre Globe 5.80 offshore sailboat, iMolly Claire. Then his Covid Breakout achievement was to solo sail this tiny boat across the Atlantic via the Canaries and in so doing bringing, honour to the District.

Nicky Lacey - Nicky recently retired as Senior Fire Officer in Tinahely with nearly 40 years of service in the Fire Service and in so doing bringing, honour to the District.

Noel Nagle - The Wolfe Tones celebrate sixty years on the road this year, they were formed in 1963 and as a young ballad group started playing in Blessington in many bars with Reidis Lounge (Formerly the

Bus Bar) being a regular gig. Noel Nagle and Brian Warfield both live in Blessington with Tommy Byrne just over the border in Redgap, Rathcoole and in so doing, bringing honour to the District.

Louise Quinn - Irish International Soccer Player Louise was born and reared in Knockerin, Blessington. She started her Football career with Lakeside Girls and was part of the Lakeside All-Ireland Community Games Winning team in 1998. Louise also played on underage Blessington boys teams for some years. Having played for clubs such as Peamount, Notts County and Arsenal she now plays for Birmingham City and in so doing, bringing honour to the District.

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Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien

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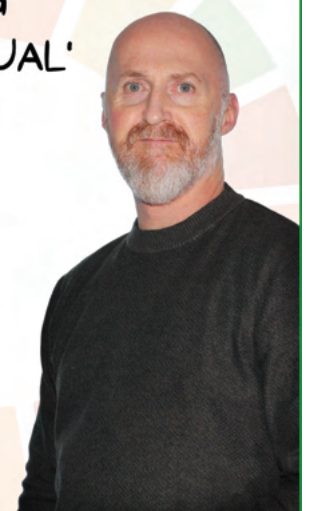
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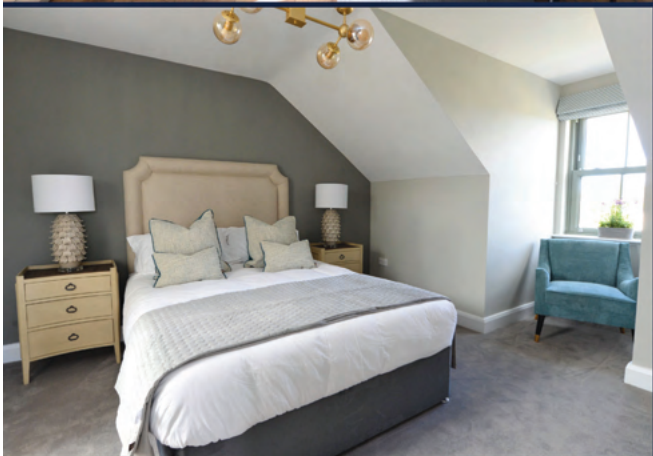


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Patrick, Madison and Jamie Byrne at the Market Square Summer Sessions in Wicklow Town.

‘Inaction on transport link is punishing airport users’

Sinn Fein TD John Brady has described the decision to continue to operate the 702 Greystones via Bray to Dublin Airport service on a reduced basis as disappointing.

"The 702 has the potential to provide a much-needed public transport link for Wicklow holiday makers," he said, "and businesspeople to Dublin Airport, particularly at a time when the airport is facing significant car parking challenges. The failure of the Government to provide a transport link to the airport is leading to congestion, environmental concerns, and considerable disruption for Airport users. Government inaction is leading to the punishment of Airport users for the failures of the Green Party Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan and his Fianna Fail and Fine Gael colleagues.

"Having recently contacted

Aircoach in relation to the decision to the decision to maintain the 702 Greystones via Bray to Dublin Airport Service on a reduced timetable, I can only describe the decision as disappointing.

"I would again like to call upon Aircoach to review their decision, particularly in light of the demand from Airport users from Wicklow. Previously the 702 route was operated on a 24-hour basis, but under the new reduced schedule the last Aircoach out of Greystones is at 6pm evening time, whilst the last Aircoach leaving Dublin Airport for Greystones is at 8.05pm.

"Increased volumes of cars at

Dublin airport will also place even more pressure on car parking facilities which are already overrun. In the last number of months Dublin Airport Authority (DAA) have been forced to issue several advisories to potential car park users that facilities at the Airport car parks were full. Overrun car parks, combined with a lack of public transport has left Wicklow holiday makers and businesspeople stranded at the airport on a number of occasions.

"The failure of the Government to provide a transport link between the city centre and Dublin Airport is a disgrace. It is one of the only airports in

Europe that is not serviced with a direct rail line. The failure of the government to address their failure, is putting more and more people into cars, at a time when there is a strategic focus on reducing car numbers on our roads for environmental reasons.

"Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan needs to act to address the needs and demands from Airport users to ensure that there is a workable, commuter focussed link from Dublin Airport to outlying areas. I have no doubt that Wicklow holiday makers and businesspeople attempting to access Dublin Airport believe that they have been punished enough by this government."

€94,000 funding for cancer care and community first responders

Funding has been announced for Rathdrum Cancer Support Group and the Community Rapid Response Unit in Wicklow.

This is a vital investment for Rathdrum to allow them to purchase vehicles designed to transport people who have mobility issues or people being treated for cancer. It will receive €44,034.

In addition, the Irish Community Rapid response in Wicklow will receive €50,000 for

a vehicle and fit out.

Welcoming the funding, Minister Harris said: "It is wonderful to be supporting these vital services in our community. Rathdrum Cancer Support Group and the Irish Community Rapid Response play a critical role providing essential services to members

of the public who are most in need, including by bringing them free of charge, to cancer treatment and to day care centres.

They also provide essential transport services for blood samples and medication and, equally important, delivering search and rescue services. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to these organisations and the individuals who work with them and it is my great pleasure to support them through this investment."

Stokes seeks accountability for 184 bus service issues

Greystones Municipal District is to invite Go Ahead to a meeting to discuss the 184 bus service. The invitation follows a successful motion by Cllr Stephen Stokes, who submitted it at the July meeting.

Cllr Stokes stated: "There are big issues with the 184 service. Since Go Ahead took over the route, the 184 service has been plagued with problems over the years, such as skipping Charlesland. These issues need an immediate resolution.

Cllr Stokes is concerned about the level of accountability at Go Ahead. He is calling for accountability, and has highlighted the plight of Charlesland commuters who are sometimes skipped.

Cllr Stokes added: "The worst that seems to happen to Go Ahead is that the NTA slaps them with a fine. That is not much use to people who are left stranded by buses that do not show up, or could not be bothered to serve Charlesland. The 184 service seemed to improve for a time, but recent reports have indicated that it is going backwards again. Local residents have advised

me that they have missed appointments, interviews, travel connections and more. I want Go Ahead to explain these 184 issues, and tell us what they are doing to fix the problems.

Additionally most complaints seem to go unanswered. There needs to be a greater level of transparency."

Cllr Stokes is a commuter and uses the 184. He continued: "In fairness to Go Ahead, when the 184 runs correctly it is a good service. I would like to thank all of those who work as bus and train drivers. The majority are doing a great job. We just need to ensure a consistent level of service for the 184. There needs to be decisive action on stopping Charlesland from being skipped. I would also like to see the 184 route extended to include Glenheron and Hawkins Wood."

Cllr Stephen Stokes wants Go Ahead Senior Management to attend the meeting to hear firsthand how these issues are affecting local commuters. He concluded: "We would warmly welcome Go Ahead to meet with the Greystones Municipal District. I would just caution them about travelling on the 184 to attend. They might find that it's a bit unreliable, and we don't want them to miss the meeting."



Cllr Stephen Stokes at Charlesland bus stop



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- **Dress Making.** 7.30-9.30pm. Duration 10 weeks.
- **Bridge** - Beginners. 7:30-9:30pm. Duration 10 weeks.
- **Yoga** - Beginners. 6.45-8.00pm. Duration 10 weeks.
- **Yoga** - Improvers. 8.00-9.15pm. Duration 10 weeks.
- **Tai Chi.** 7:00-8:30pm. Duration 10 weeks.
- **Digital Photography.** 7:30-9:30pm. Duration 10 weeks.
- **Furniture Making** - Woodwork for Beginners. 7.30-9.30pm. Duration 10 weeks.
- **Italian** - Beginners. 6:45-8:10pm. Duration 10 weeks.
- **Italian** - Improvers. pm. Duration 10 weeks. 8:15-9:45
- **Conversational Irish** - beginners. 6.45-8.15pm. Duration 10 weeks.
- **Conversational Irish** - Improvers. 8.15-9.45pm. Duration 10 weeks.
- **Pottery/Ceramics.** 6:40-9.10pm. Duration 10 weeks.
- **French** - Beginners. 8:15-9:45pm. Duration 8 weeks.
- **French** - Improvers. 6:40-8:10pm. Duration 8 weeks.
- **Spanish** - Beginners. 6.45-8.15pm. Duration 10 weeks.
- **Spanish** - Improvers. 8.15-9.30pm. Duration 10 weeks.
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Californian delegation welcomed to Bray



Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien, Hazel Wetherford, Michael McCorriston, Kashef Qadri, Lorraine Gallagher, Garvan Hickey, Linda Smith, Jean Josey, Cllr Rory O'Connor, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Cllr Aoife Flynn-Kennedy, Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District Cllr Melanie Corrigan, Mayor of Dublin California Melissa Hernandez Strah, and Sarah Finnegan.

Bray Municipal District recently welcomed a delegation from its twinned city - Dublin in California - to Bray. A warm welcome was extended to the visiting delegation by the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy and Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District, Cllr Melanie Corrigan.

The delegation, which was led by the Mayor of Dublin California Cllr Melissa Hernandez and Vice-Mayor Michael McCorriston, included County Supervisor, David Haubert and Dublin Californnia Council Members and Officials.

Dublin, California, which has a population of 72,932 has been twinned with Bray since 1985. This Partnership was reaffirmed in March 2023.

Wicklow County Council took the opportunity of showcasing some of the county's prime tourist attractions taking the delegates to experience newly renovated Avondale House and the major tourist attraction Beyond the Trees in Rathdrum. Visitors also got to visit the beautiful village of Avoca and Glendalough monastic site.

The visiting delegation met with the Senior Management Team of Wicklow County Council where the Chief Executive, Emer O Gorman, gave the delegates an overview of the strategic projects the Council is involved in, followed by presentations from Head of Enterprise, Vibeke Delahunty; Tourism Officer Fred Verdier and the Manager of the Council Screen Office, John Powderly.

Welcoming the delegation, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, said "It gives me great

pleasure to welcome you all here today to hear about the work the Council is involved in and explore ways of expanding the twinning relationship to capitalise on opportunities that can benefit both communities around Tourism, education, business and film."

Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District, Cllr Melanie Corrigan, added: "This visit is the continuation of a new chapter in the twinning relationship between Bray and Dublin City California which would see the development of a deeper mutually beneficial relationship into the future."

She thanked Eugene Finnegan, Chairman of Bray Tourism, for his contribution to the twinning relationship since its inception back in 1985 and presently and also to everyone involved in putting the programme of events in place.

A business meeting took place in the Town Hall on Sunday morning Chaired by Cllr Corrigan and attended by Bray Municipal District elected members; Bray District Manager, Lorraine Gallagher; Bray Rotary Club and the Chair of Bray Chamber of Commerce.

At the conclusion of the meeting delegates experienced Ireland's biggest air festival, the Bray Air Show, which marked the end of a very successful and productive Town Twinning visit.

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Public consultation to begin for Fassaroe Park and Ride

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has welcomed confirmation that the public consultation for the proposed new Park and Ride facility at Fassaroe will go live on Wednesday 23rd August. The consultation is part of the Part 8 planning process.

Deputy Brady said "Confirmation that the public consultation process for the proposed new Park and Ride facility at Fassaroe is to go live on Wednesday 23rd August is welcome news. The plans for the new facility include 388 parking spaces, including 42 spaces for electric vehicle charging and 26 disabled spaces. It is anticipated that the proposal will return for Council approval at the November Wicklow County Council Meeting.

Whilst the bus service strategy for Park and Ride along the N11 corridor has not been finalised, it is critically important that the service is frequent, affordable, and punctual. The National Transport Authority are anticipating having buses departing to Dublin at a frequency of up to 20 mins during the peak periods and every 30 mins off-peak.

The bus-based Park and Ride facility at Fassaroe is one of three proposed Park and Ride facilities along the N11/M1, Ashford/Rathnew and Kilpedder are the other two locations.

"The Park and Ride Development Office (PRDO) will be responsible for the delivery of the overall project, working in conjunction with Wicklow County

Council, and the various transport agencies operating in the County. Subject to planning approval, the aim is to deliver Fassaroe towards the end of 2024, Ashford/Rathnew at the start of 2025 and Kilpedder in the second quarter of 2025.

"This is an important development for commuters in County Wicklow and will greatly assist in making public transport more accessible for people and easing traffic congestion by taking cars off busy roads.

"I encourage members of the public to engage with the public consultation process when it goes live on 23rd August."



Sergeant John Whelan shows Patrick McDonald the controls on the Garda patrol car at the St. Catherine's Association summer event on the grounds of Newcastle Hospital last week.

Italian delegation visits Blessington to sign Friendship Agreement

A visiting delegation from the Italian Town of Castel Maggiore was recently welcomed to Blessington to sign a friendship agreement as part of the twinning process between the two communities.

The visit was part of an ongoing process to twin Blessington with the Italian town of Castel Maggiore, with the cooperation of Blessington and District Forum and the Baltinglass Municipal District.

The visiting delegation were welcomed to the area by Cathaoirleach, Cllr Edward Timmins; local Councillors, Baltinglass Municipal District Manager, Breege Kilkenny; members of the Blessington and District

Forum including Chair Carmel Cashin and Twinning Committee Chairman Michael Doyle. Cathaoirleach of Baltinglass Municipal District, Cllr Edward Timmins said: "I was delighted to welcome the

delegation to Blessington on behalf of the Baltinglass Municipal District. This is an opportunity for us to showcase all we have to offer in Blessington and indeed the wider West Wicklow area and to build up connections with our counterparts in Italy."

As part of the visit to Blessington, the delegation

had the opportunity to meet with members of the local community at a welcome morning in the Avon. Community groups within Blessington were invited to attend to build connections, exchange views and to develop relationships with likeminded groups within the community of Castel Maggiore.

In welcoming the

Italian delegation, District Manager, Breege Kilkenny, said that she hoped the twinning process would strengthen community, social, sporting and economic links between both communities.

Speaking at the event Cllr Avril Cronin said: "Today marks the beginning of a great friendship

between our two communities. It will allow our two communities to share their vision, exchange opinions, learn from each other, explore their cultures and create a strong relationship."

During the visit the delegation met with the staff of Blessington Tourist office, experienced Irish music and dance with a

showcase of local talent in the Tramway Theatre, a tour of the town to hear about its great history and heritage while also visiting the local library and the Comin Centre.

The group also had the opportunity to visit local tourist attractions such as Russborough House, Blessington Lakes and Glendalough.

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Members of Ballinastoe Tug of War Club in action in Scotland

Roundwood tug of war club pulls its weight on international stage

Ballinastoe Tug of War Club in Roundwood recently achieved international success, winning the Silver Medal in the 700kg category at the Open Club British and Irish Championships which were held in Scotland.

The local Roundwood club also competed in the 640kg and 600kg competitions. The championships were held over the weekend of 12th-13th August at Morristown Playing Fields

in Elgin, Scotland.

Ballinastoe Tug of War Club are members of Tug of War Ireland, the amateur organisation which acts as the governing body for the sport of Tug of War in

Ireland.

Teams usually consist of eight or five pullers whose total weight must not exceed the particular weight category of the competition. Contests are

judged by a referee according to a strict set of rules laid down by the Tug of War International Federation (TWIF) and Tug of War Ireland (TOWI).

Bray athlete wins Gold at British Transplant Games

Clidhna Costello and her son Tadhg McElroy from Bray represented Ireland at the British Transplant Games recently, with Tadhg winning a Gold Medal. In all, it was a superb performance by Transplant Sport Ireland at the Games which were held in Coventry.

Winning 15 Gold, 10 Silver and 6 Bronze medals, it makes it the most successful Transplant team ever to compete in these championships.

Clidhna and Tadhg's story is a heart-warming one as mum Clidhna was a living donor to her son in 2014.

Clidhna says "Tadhg was transplanted at two years old and our lives changed completely in the best possible way. We were so excited to be a part of the games, myself and my husband have dreamed of him taking part for years but he hasn't felt ready until now. Now he is confident and excited."

Clidhna competed in the Living Donor swimming competition whilst 10 year old Tadhg took part in Athletics and Table Tennis where he won Gold. For Tadhg, these Games were a life changing and he says: "The Transplant Games are where I can meet and compete with other people like me. Where I can be who I am and be around others like me."

The four-day sports competition was amongst over 1200 athletes all heart, lung, liver, kidney, pancreas and bone marrow transplant recipients and kidney dialysis patients from all over the UK, Northern Ireland, Germany, the Netherlands and even Australia. There were competitions for living donors as well as junior athletes.

Transplant Sport Ireland had 26 transplanted adults, 5 transplanted underage athletes, and 3 living donors competing from Cavan, Cork, Dublin, Galway, Kerry, Limerick, Louth, Mayo, Tipperary,



Tadhg McElroy from Bray with his Gold Medal

Westmeath, Wexford and Wicklow.

Whilst there were many highlights, it must be said that the celebration of the success of Organ Donation was the most obvious as 31 transplanted Irish athletes would not be there without their donor and the donor's family's great gift of life. It was also the first time that the Adults team and the Children's team combined making it a strong 34-athlete team.

Transplant Sport actively promotes the importance of more people telling their family and friends they wish to donate, so that families do not refuse to give consent

because of a lack of knowledge. It demonstrates powerfully that organ donation works and each athlete is deeply grateful for the gift of life - none more so than the athletes in Team Ireland.

Team Ireland has one shared purpose - to showcase the success of organ donation and transplantation whilst offering inspiration to those who are newly transplanted or newly diagnosed with organ failure. The Team have one simple request to everyone - to please consider carrying an Organ Donor Card and Have the conversation - Say YES to Organ Donation.

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Basketball quiz a slam dunk

The Wicklow Wolves Basketball Club recently held a successful fundraising table quiz in Greystones Golf Club. The event took place on Saturday, August 12th, with a packed audience in attendance. The quiz night raised vital funds, and boosted the awareness of the club in the community.

Cllr Stephen Stokes was in attendance, and took part in the table quiz. He praised all of the organisers.

Cllr Stokes stated: "It was a well run evening. The organisers did a superb

job. There is always a great buzz when Mike Morrissey is the MC of any quiz. I would like to wish the Wicklow Wolves the best of success for their continued efforts."

The Wicklow Wolves is

a social basketball club for ladies. It was formed as a merger between basketball clubs in Greystones and Newtown.

They train on Tuesday evenings, and would warmly welcome new

players. The Wicklow Wolves cater for players of all standards. More information can be

found on their Facebook page; Wicklow Wolves Basketball Club.



Pictured are Mandy Murphy, Bernadette Stokes, Cllr Stephen Stokes, Henry O'Neill, and Sharon O'Neill at the quiz.

Wicklow GAA star urges people to line up for local cause

Wicklow footballer and member of the Gaelic Players Association (GPA), Sarah Delahunt, is urging people to become charitable All-Stars for a worthy local cause this summer and go Up the Hill for Jack and Jill.

Going Up the Hill for Jack and Jill is easy! Simply identify a local hill or mountain to suit your fitness and ability, and invite your family, friends, neighbours, or colleagues to join in the fun. Each €18 registration fee will help fund one hour of in-home nursing care and end-of-life support for children with highly complex and life-limiting medical conditions, up to the age of six years.

There are families in communities across the

country being cared for right now by the Jack and Jill Children's Foundation, including 17 families in Wicklow. In fact, a total of 64 families have been supported by Jack and Jill in Wicklow since the charity's foundation in 1997. 2023 will be the ninth annual Up the Hill for Jack and Jill, kindly supported this year by the global healthcare company, Abbott. Organisers are hoping to raise over €75,000 for Jack and Jill's vital services - equivalent to 4,167 hours

of in-home nursing care and respite support - which is a lifeline for over 400 families currently availing of the service across the country.

Three Simple Steps to Go Up the Hill for Jack and Jill!

Step 1 - On your Marks! Register your Up the Hill fundraiser at www.jackandjill.ie for just €18 per adult participating

Step 2 - Get Set! Organise your Up the Hill fundraising event and rally family, friends, neighbours and colleagues to team up with you, or to lend their support, by making a donation

Step 3 - Go! Take aim at a local hill, choose a day and time to suit, grab your eco-friendly #UptheHill23 banner, and Go!

For Wicklow footballer and GPA member, Sarah Delahunt, every game is an endurance test. But the endurance capacity of Jack and Jill families in supporting their children day in, day out, is next-level: "Jack and Jill is a gift of time for so many families who face very tough challenges in their home life. These families have a massive amount of resilience, but they need, and deserve, a break to enable them to recharge and face the next challenge. As a proud member of the Gaelic Players Association, I'm inviting our wonderful community of players and supporters to go Up the Hill with Jack and Jill, and the GPA, this summer, as we support these inspiring families who just need a helping hand every once in a while, from their Jack and Jill nurse."



Sarah Delahunt, Wicklow footballer and member of the Gaelic Players Association

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Green Party TD Steven Matthews

Plans to improve water quality in Avonmore River

Deputy Steven Matthews, Green Party TD for Wicklow, has welcomed the inclusion of the Avonmore River in Wicklow in measures to restore water quality and improve the aquatic environment.

Speaking after the launch of the report, 'The Framework of Measures and Best Practice Guidance for High Status Objective Water Bodies', Deputy Matthews said, "I studied water quality for many years and I am fully aware of the health and environmental impacts of deterioration in the quality of water in our rivers and lakes over the last 30 years. Of particular concern, is the loss of what are called High Status waters and this project aims to address and reverse this trend."

"I am delighted that our beautiful Avonmore River will be included and improved under this project. I want to thank my Green Party colleague Minister Malcolm

Noonan for ensuring Wicklow is included."

Minister Noonan noted that 'High status water bodies are a precious resource and it is imperative that we not only halt, but reverse their decline. Today's report highlights new and valuable insights into our highest status waters, and we hope to see this knowledge put to good use, not just through the Waters of LIFE project but by farm advisors, landowners and all of the stakeholders working to improve water quality. The Results Based Payments Scheme offered as part of this project will support and reward efforts made by landowners including farmers and foresters to improve water quality in these five

catchments. We've seen the success of this model in other LIFE projects such as Wild Atlantic Nature LIFE IP which granted in excess of €2.4 million in payments in 2022. I encourage eligible groups in the areas around those catchments to get involved in the project."

Deputy Matthews concluded: "The natural environment across Wicklow is a fantastic source of recreation, encourages tourism and benefits the health and well being of residents and visitors."

"However many of natural amenities and habits are under threat from many sources and I am committed to ensuring we invest, protect and restore nature for all of our communities."

PURE and Ecotrail Wicklow partner for litter free trails

Ecotrail Wicklow has again partnered with the Wicklow/Dublin uplands environmental initiative, Pure. The trail running event happening on September 30th out of Bray Seafront, is committed to minimise its environmental impact with action such as no single use plastic, sorting litter or promoting public transport to participants.

The partnership between EcoTrail Wicklow and Pure is a major initiative that helps the event to look after the uplands and the various routes used on race day. The objective is to collaborate with Pure on litter picks and cleanups along the various trails used for EcoTrail Wicklow from Bray Seafront to Bray Head, Belmont, Sugarloaf, the Wicklow Way and all the way to Roundwood.

Pure (Protecting Uplands & Rural Environments) is an environmental project established to combat illegal dumping/fly-tipping in the Wicklow/Dublin uplands. It is a partnership project and the first of its kind in

Ireland which incorporates statutory and non-statutory organisations, including Wicklow County Council, South Dublin County Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, Coillte, National Parks & Wildlife Service, and the Wicklow Uplands Council.

Funded by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, Pure was established to combat illegal dumping/fly-tipping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands and was officially launched in September 2006.

Ian Davis, Pure Director, commented: "Pure are delighted

to be working with Wicklow Tourism and the Ecotrail Team. It's extremely important that both participants and spectators see the county of Wicklow, pure, clean, and pristine, the way it should be, and this collaboration will ensure that there is no unsightly litter or dumping tarnishing the 'Garden of Ireland'."

Cllr Aoife Flynn-Kennedy, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council and Bray resident stated: "The partnership between Pure and EcoTrail Wicklow is a fantastic opportunity to help Bray and Wicklow to look their best as we welcome trail runners from all over the world. EcoTrail Wicklow is a

fantastic 'brochure' showcasing the fantastic playground that is Wicklow for outdoor activities."

Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council added: "With Fáilte Ireland's support, EcoTrail is attracting participants from all over the world. Our event is proving to be a fantastic promotional for County Wicklow. With Ireland's mild climate, especially on the East Coast, our trails can be enjoyed throughout the year to walk and run on."

Ecotrail Wicklow starts and finishes in Bray and has four races with distances of 19km, 30km, 46km and 80km races. Each route will take in some of Wicklow's most scenic locations including Bray Head, Belmont Estate, The Little and Big Sugarloaf, Lough Tay and Vartry Reservoir.



Ian Davis, Manager, Pure Project and Nicola Cleary from EcoTrail Wicklow up at JB Malone memorial on the 80km route of EcoTrail Wicklow.

Not enough bins in fastest growing town



Newtown Tidy Towns volunteers at their monthly cleanup

Newtownmountkennedy might be the fastest growing town in Wicklow, but the number of bins in the town are not keeping up with the pace according to vice-chairperson on Newtown Tidy Towns Danny Alvey.

Newtownmountkennedy & District Tidy Towns are calling on Wicklow Municipal District to provide more bins for the fast growing town. The volunteer group held their monthly community cleanup on Saturday 29th July and collected four full bags of litter from the town's Main Street and Church Road.

"Currently there are only five public bins in the whole town," said Danny. "On a recent walk around Wicklow Town, which shares the Municipal District with Newtown, I counted 28. And there was probably a few I missed!"

"The problem areas are all of the bus stops in Newtown and the 1798 public square. We have local people contact us about how these areas are very littered every week. They are only cleaned up thanks to the work of some of our dedicated volunteers."

"Newtown's population grew by 25% between census 2016 and census 2022, but in that same period we have seen very little increase in all types of facilities the town needs, the bins are just one very visible example! We have been in touch with the County Council and the local Municipal District on this and we really hope some funding can be found for extra bins in the town."

"A lot of the waste left behind at the bus stops are cans and bottles so if these bins could be segregated for mixed recycling and general waste that would be even better for the environment."

Year two of Creative Places Baltinglass launched

Year two of the Creative Places Baltinglass programme - which will see an investment of nearly E400,000 in local art programmes over three years - was officially launched in Rathcoran Estate recently.

The event provided the opportunity for Wicklow County Council representatives to meet with leaders of local organisations and projects and to hear from community members and creative practitioners about their Creative Places journey.

The Creative Places initiative was devised by the Arts Council of Ireland to provide communities and places that had not benefited from sustained arts investment in the past with funding and professional support to build their local arts programmes and benefit people living in these places.

Baltinglass is one of 17 places in Ireland selected for the Creative Places scheme that brought E1.7m in investment across the country and provided over 100,000 people in rural areas with access to the arts.

Spearheaded by the Wicklow County Council Arts Office, the Creative Places Baltinglass programme aims to build on existing cultural strengths in Baltinglass, encourage community participation and support local artists.

Guests at the event included Cllr Aoife Flynn-Kennedy, Cathaoirleach

of Wicklow County Council; Cllr Edward Timmins, Cathaoirleach of Baltinglass Municipal District; Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council; Michael Nicholson, Director of Services, Wicklow County Council, as well as representatives from Respond Housing Association, Tearnann Community Garden, Baltinglass & District Forum, Tidy Towns, Wicklow County Libraries, The Men's Shed, An Garda Síochána, local artists and businesses.

In preparation for the launch, the project gathered momentum in capacity building locally and in increased creative activities and events in the town. Recently highlights include a Bealtaine Tea Dance with 65 elderly participants hosted by Baltinglass Active Retirement Association and supported by members of An Garda Síochána, and Cruinniú na nOg Creative Workshops held in Tearnann Community Garden and attended by over 400 children and their families.

Two Artists in Residence projects com-

menced in July 2023. The first residency with Gerald Peregrine and the Mobile Music Machine sees the delivery of live concerts to the residents of Baltinglass Community Hospital. The second residency takes place in Rathcoran Housing estate and is led by artist Suzie Cahn, co-founder of Carraig D'Ira P e r m a - culture Farm Ltd. This residency will strengthen community integration through creativity and permaculture.

To build the capacity of local professional artists based in Baltinglass, five artists received Seed Funding to develop their ideas further.

Artist development workshops, funding clinics, coaching and employment on local projects are also part of the Creative Places Baltinglass Capacity Building Programme. Local artist group BART (Baltinglass Art) has received support and funding to produce a large-scale mural to enhance the town's appearance.

Wicklow Arts Office also announced the appointment of Monika Sapielak, an award-winning Artistic Director, Curator and Arts Manager, to implement the programme as the Creative Places Baltinglass Coordinator.

With over 25 years of international experience in developing and presenting artistic programmes which are inclusive and socially engaged, Ms Sapielak is delighted to be part of this ground-breaking opportunity for

the people of Baltinglass. Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, highlighted the significance of the Creative Places Baltinglass programme stating: "I feel Baltinglass is in a unique

position as a rural community to capitalise on the Creative Places Programme and am delighted that the Arts Council has funded it as one of their national locations."

Emer O'Gorman, Chief

Executive, Wicklow County Council, added: "I wish you all the best as you begin your project journeys and look forward to seeing the documentation and evaluative outcomes of Creative Places Baltinglass and

what it delivers for the town and its people."

Further information on the Creative Places Baltinglass is available on the newly developed project website: <https://www.creativeplacesbaltinglass.ie/>



An Roinn Comhshaoil,
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide
Department of the Environment,
Climate and Communications

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO GRANT A PROSPECTING LICENCE

Since it appears to the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications (the Minister) that there are minerals not being worked under the lands in the areas set out below, pursuant to section 7(1) of the Minerals Development Act 1940, as amended, the Minister intends to grant a prospecting licence for **Base Metals, Barytes, Silver, Gold, Rare Earth Elements, Lithium, Caesium, and Platinum Group Metals to Earth Source Ltd, Galderbeg, Glenelg, Kyle, Highlands, IV40 8JZ, United Kingdom** over the following Townlands in Co's Wicklow and Kildare.

Townlands in Talbotstown Upper Barony: Ballinacrow Lower, Ballinacrow Upper, Ballinroan Lower, Ballinroan Upper, Ballintruer Beg, Ballintruer More, Ballyhook Demesne, Ballyhook, Ballyhook Hill, Ballyhubbock Lower, Ballyhubbock Upper, Ballynatone, Baltinglass West, Baronstown Upper, Barraderry East, Barraderry North, Barraderry West, Bawnoge, Boley, Boleycarrigeen, Boleylug, Brockna, Brusselstown, Burrow, Carsrock, Castlequarter, Castleruddery Lower, Castleruddery Upper, Castlesallagh, Clogh Lower, Clogh Upper, Cloghcastle, Cloghnagaune, Colvinstown Lower, Colvinstown Upper, Coolamaddra, Coolinarrig Lower, Coolinarrig Upper, Deepark, Downings, Eadestown Hill, Eadestown Middle, Eadestown North, Eadestown South, Englishtown, Fortgranite, Gibraltar, Glennacan, Goldenfort, Grangecon Hill, Hartstown, Holdenstown Lower, Holdenstown Upper, Humewood, Irongrange Lower, Irongrange Upper, Kill, Killalish Lower, Killalish Upper, Kilmurry, Kilmurry Lower, Kilmurry Upper, Kilranelagh, Knockaderry, Knockanreagh, Knockarigg, Knockarigg Demesne, Knockarigg Hill, Lackareagh, Lathaleere, Lowtown, Manger, Mattymount, Monatore, Moneymore, Moorstown, Newtownsaunders, Oldtown, Pinnacle, Raheen, Rampere, Randalstown, Rathbran, Rathmoon, Saundersgrove, Saundersgrove Hill, Scurlough, Slaney Park, Spinans East, Spinans Hill, Spinans Middle, Spinans West, Sruhaun, Stratford, Stratford Lodge, Talbotstown Lower, Talbotstown Upper, Tinoranhill North, Tinoranhill South, Tuckmill Hill, Tuckmill Lower, Tuckmill Upper, Winetavern, Woodfield, Woodfieldglen.

Townlands in Kilkea and Moone Barony: Aylmerstown, Ballycullane Lower, Ballycullane Upper, Ballynacarrick Lower, Ballynacarrick Upper, Ballynamony, Ballyraggan, Ballyvannan, Ballyvass, Beaconstown, Belan, Bigbog, Bolton, Broadstown, Carrigeen North, Carrigeen South, Carrigeenhill, Castleroe East, Coltstown, Coltstown, Coolane, Corballis, Crophill, Davidstown, Davidstown Demesne, Davidstown(Pilsworth), Glowens, Graney East, Graney West, Grangeford, Hallahoise, Hobartstown East, Hobartstown West, Hughstown, Kilkea Demesne, Kilkea Lodge Farm, Kilkea Lower, Kilkea Upper, Knockaphuca, Knockfield, Knocknacree, Knockpatrick, Knockrow, Knockshannagh, Marshalstown, Moatavanny, Mullaghreelan, Mullarney, Narraghbeg, Newtown, Newtown, Newtown, Plunketstown Lower, Plunketstown Upper, Roscolvin, Saintjohns, Sheriffhill, Tankardstown, Townparks.

The maps and townland lists should be viewed on the Government of Ireland's website at (<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/507ce-prospecting-licence-notices/>). Where possible, they will be made available at **Kildare Garda Station, Leixlip Garda Station, Wicklow Garda Station, Batchelors Walk and Rathdrum Garda Station, Co Wicklow and Wicklow and Kildare County Councils**; the Geological Survey Ireland, Booterstown Hall, Booterstown, Co Dublin, A94 N2R6 and the address below.

Submissions to the granting of the licence should be made within **30 days** of the date of this Notice. Submissions can only be made by either posting them to the Geoscience Regulation Office at the address below or by using the **online submissions form** www.gov.ie/gdroSubmissions. The Minister reserves the right to make details of the submissions available to the applicant in order to fully consider their validity.

NB: A Prospecting Licence entitles the holder to explore for mineral deposits and **does not authorise mining of any minerals**. The activities permissible under a licence are, in general, non-invasive and of minimal environmental impact. The Minister has assessed the exploration programme proposed by the Company and has determined that the activities are not likely to have a significant effect on the environment. Further information, statutory notice and Minister's determination are available to view at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/507ce-prospecting-licence-notices/>

Geoscience Regulation Office,
Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications,
29-31 Adelaide Road,
Dublin, D02 X285.

Ref: M. A. 345/1

Date: August 2023.

EU GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (EU GDPR)

Department responsibilities: The Department welcomes submissions and petitions from the public. In responding to the consultation, respondents consent to their name being publicly available with their submission. The Department will redact personal addresses and personal email addresses prior to publication. We would draw your attention to the Department's Privacy Statement:

'The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications requires responders to provide certain personal data in order to provide services and carry out the functions of the Department. Your personal data may be exchanged with other Government Departments and Agencies in certain circumstances, where lawful. Full details can be found in our Data Privacy Notice which is available on the Government of Ireland website (<https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation-information/dfd02-data-protection/>) or in hard copy on request'.

Petitioner's responsibilities: Each Petition Organiser is a Data Controller and they should be aware of their responsibilities; that details provided by petition signatories when signing the petition (for example names, addresses, email addresses, telephone numbers and so on) are categorised as 'personal data' which is subject to GDPR (EU Regulation 2016/679 'General Data Protection Regulation 2018').

Petition Organisers as Data Controllers are required to confirm in their submission that:

- All individuals whose personal data is provided in the Petition have consented to the processing of their personal data by the Petition Organiser and the Department (as outlined in our Privacy Statement above),

OR

- That you otherwise have a legal basis (please specify) for providing such personal data to the Department for the purposes of participation in this consultation.



Paula Phelan, musician and arts coordinator, with Roxie Phelan, dancer



Phillip D. Jaffé (Vice chair UN Committee on the Rights of the Child), Tim Grace Byrne, and Dr Niall Muldoon

Blessington teen plays key role at national conference on children's rights

Tim Grace Byrne (16) from Blessington recently took part in a national conference on children's rights which was attended by over 100 people from all over the country. Pieces of Us - What's Next? was an event run by the Ombudsman for Children's Office and attended by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Pieces of Us is a report which highlights the voices of the 5,515 children who took part in a national online survey and 200 who participated in focus groups. It was presented to the UN Committee in 2022 by our Youth Advisory Panel and this event is an opportunity for children to have their say on what should happen next. Pieces of Us - What's Next was an event where 100 children got the chance to share their views on what the Government should now prioritise for children.

Tim played an extremely important role as a member of the OCO's Youth Advisory Panel,

gathering information from young people across Ireland and chairing discussions on how they feel about living in Ireland and the changes they want to see. The OCO's Youth Advisory Panel plays a vital role in the work of the OCO, advising about emerging issues and concerns for young people.

Speaking following the event, the Ombudsman for Children, Dr Niall Muldoon commented: "We were delighted to have Tim and the other members of our Youth Advisory Panel involved in this important children's rights conference. They asked strong and challenging questions, particularly in

relation to children's mental health and how Ireland is ensuring that all children have equal opportunities."

Dr Carmel Corrigan, OCO Head of Participation and Rights Education who led in coordinating the Pieces of Us report added: "The Pieces of Us- What's Next event was unique in that it gave a children's perspective on the Concluding Observations of the UNCRC and the concerns that were raised. The children who worked on our Pieces of Us report were the heart and soul of the report- it was their voices and their insights, and so it's important that they also have a say on what happens next."

New 30km/h speed limit outside schools

This month saw the introduction of periodic 30km/h speed limits outside every one of the 102 schools in the county - the first local authority in the country to introduce such a measure. As a result of these changes, the most vulnerable road users will find themselves in a safer environment.

By ensuring that cars travel at lower speeds, the front of school area will be a much calmer and welcoming place for children and their parents who choose to walk, cycle or scoot to school.

Studies have shown that pedestrians have a 90 per cent chance of surviving after being hit by a car or a truck going at 30 km/h, but less

than 50 per cent at 50 km/h or higher. Existing speed limits in the vicinities of County Wicklow's schools varied from 50km up to 80km per hour.

The safety of all children is paramount and the introduction of these new periodic speed limits will signal the intention from Wicklow County Council to

motorists that they need to slow down, particularly in the vicinity of school zones.

The new speed limits will complement the National Transport Authority and An Taisce's Safe Routes to Schools programme, of which eight schools in Wicklow have already been selected for.

Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Cathaoirleach, Wicklow County Council, welcomed the change in speed limits saying: "I am absolutely delighted that Wicklow County Council is the first local authority in the country to introduce these

periodic speed limits outside all schools. These changes will make the school zones a safer place for all, children in particular. We hope motorists will abide by these changes, which in turn will reduce the issue of speeding around schools."

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Emer O'Gorman, stated: "Tackling the issue of known speeding outside schools was a key priority for Wicklow County Council. These changes would not have been possible without the backing of the Elected

Members, and we thank them for their unwavering support in creating a safer environment for all children."

Minister Simon Harris said, "I want to welcome Wicklow County Council's new initiative to introduce periodic speed limits outside of every single one of our county's schools. This measure will save lives. It will make our roads even safer for children and some of our most vulnerable road users. I really want to praise the leadership of Wicklow County Council for leading on this. New solar panel sig-

nage will be installed at every school in Wicklow, alerting motorists to the changes."

Wicklow County Council was supported by Europe's Federation of Environmental Education (FEE), Irish partner Green-Schools with their Slow Down campaigns, who raised awareness of the benefits of slower speeds. The campaign was also backed and supported by Ireland's eLove 30f Campaign.

New solar panel signage will be installed at every school in Wicklow, alerting motorists to the changes.

Students from Wicklow to compete at Worldskills 2023



Students and apprentices from County Wicklow, who are set to compete at Worldskills Ireland 2023. They are, from left, Simon Mahon, Bray, Petra O'Flaherty, Ballyknockan and Dan Murphy, Tinahely.

Four students and apprentices from County Wicklow will put their talents and knowledge to the test this September, when they compete at Worldskills Ireland 2023, the country's largest experiential skills, apprenticeships, and careers event.

Taking place at the RDS, Dublin from 20th - 22nd September, Worldskills Ireland 2023 is expected to welcome over 22,000 people including students, parents and teachers, and will be a live celebration of apprenticeships, skills and careers with interactive demonstrations, career zones and employers who are ready to recruit.

Over 160 National Finalists will go head-to-head in a range of skills-based trades including automation, constructions skills and culinary arts, for a chance to win the prestigious Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS) Silver Medal and to represent Ireland at Worldskills Lyon next year.

Joining the other National Finalists from across the country are Wicklow natives: Petra O'Flaherty, Ballyknockan, is competing in the Architectural Stonemasonry competition; Roisin O'Connor, Blessington, is competing in the Visual Merchandising competition; Simon Mahon, Bray, and Dan Murphy, Tinahely are both competing in the Welding competition.

Supported by industry partners SISK, Construction Industry Federation (CIF), ESB Networks, Autodesk, Bus Eireann and Dublin Bus and education partners including the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS), the Higher Education Authority (HEA), SOLAS and NAO, Worldskills Ireland 2023 is designed to give

students a chance to discover the key skills and sectors that drive the Irish economy.

Commenting on the announcement of 2023's National Finalists, Ray English, Worldskills Ireland Chair added: "Congratulations to all the young people from across the country that are set to compete at the National Finals during Worldskills Ireland in September.

"Worldskills Ireland is the gateway to Worldskills Lyon in 2024, the 47th international competition which is taking place in France next year and we know that we have some incredibly talented young people in Ireland who will make us proud during the national and international competitions.

"We believe that promoting apprenticeships and skills-based careers, we can create a brighter future for our young people whilst simultaneously progressing and evolving Ireland's wider business economy.

"This year it has been announced that Higher Options, the annual education expo for second level students run by The Irish Times in partnership with the Institute of Guidance Counsellors, is joining forces with Worldskills Ireland 2023 to create a mega careers event for young people.

"We are dedicated to empowering and inspiring the next generation of skills professionals in Ireland and we're excited to work alongside our partners to continue to elevate the perception of skills and apprenticeships throughout various sectors and industries."

Moon's memoir

New book 'Travel with Moon' recounts Wicklow man's travels and adventures in 1970s Europe and Asia

The culture and people of Europe in the 1970s are brought to life in a new autobiographical book by Wicklow man Tony 'Moon' Flood, entitled 'Travel with Moon: Overland to the Back of Beyond'.

As a young man in the early 1970s 'Moon' (a nickname given to him due to his love for rockets and space travel and because his stock racing car was called the 'Apollo Moon') set off with his friend Robert

'Clob' Kehoe to travel around Europe, hoping to reach India.

Their journey would prove to be the first of many for Moon throughout the decade, sometimes with friends and sometimes solo, but

always inspired by curiosity and filled with adventure. These travels are the inspiration behind his new book which was launched earlier this month in Dubray books in Bray.

mentarian Julian Vignoles, read a number of passages from the book for the large crowd of 70 people who were there to get their signed copy.

Moon and Clob travelled extensively around Europe in the early 1970s, and Moon went on to travel into Asia. His book is an account of those journeys and is dedicated to Clob, his good friend and travelling companion who sadly passed away in 2000.

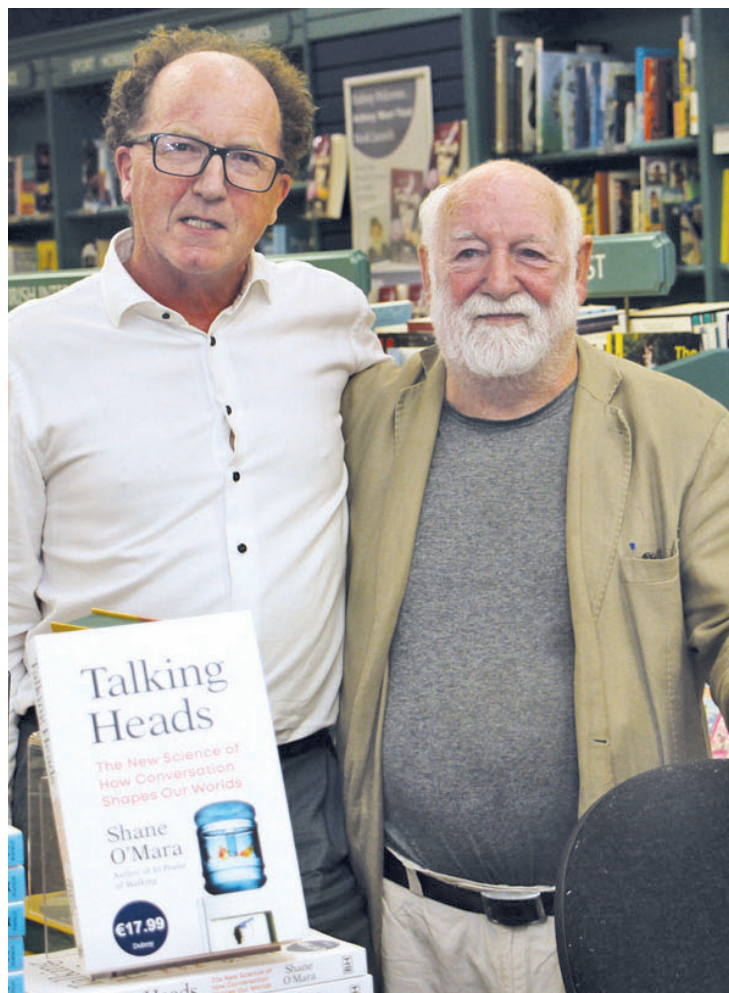
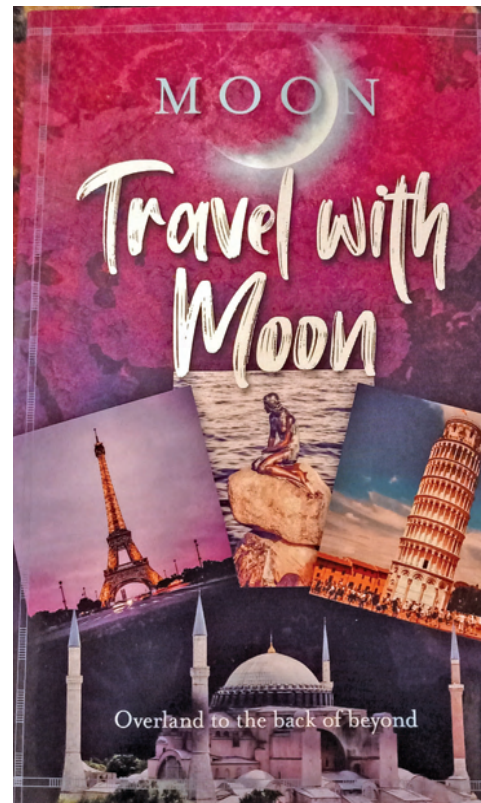
In the book Moon recounts his encounters with bandits, shepherds, wild horsemen and many hospitable people. He undertakes many jobs for his bed and board, and makes many friends along the way.

"I've been telling all these stories and anecdotes to my family and friends for so many years, they finally convinced me to put them all down in a book!" Moon tells Wicklow Times. "Luckily I'd kept all of my old notebooks, writings, photographs, which helped me to put it all together. It was about a six or seven year process."

Tony 'Moon' Flood was born in 1950 and spent his early years living in the Wicklow Gate Lodge on Small Sugarloaf, until the family moved to Avondale Park near Bray in 1962. He was educated at Kilmacanogue National



Tony 'Moon' Flood signing copies of his book in Dubray Books in Bray



Tony 'Moon' Flood with his old friend Julian Vignoles.



Tony 'Moon' Flood with his family, (First Row L-R) Luka Rice Flood, Aoife and Niamh Rohan Flood, and (Second Row L-R) Johan Flood, Ruth Flood and Roisin Flood, and (Rear) Rupert Flood.

School and went on to serve an apprenticeship in Dublin and Dun Laoghaire attending Bolton Street College, a qualifying as a sheetmetal worker and Coppersmith. Moon had already spent some time abroad in London, but Europe was calling.

"Ireland in the early 1970s didn't have much going on," says Moon. "Travelling abroad was the only way to experience different and exciting cultures. There wasn't even any large supermarkets here!"

Moon spent the rest of the 70s soaking up all

the continent had to offer, and while his book is full of many enthralling tales and adventures, it's also a fascinating snapshot of a pre-European Union Europe in a decade of profound political and cultural change.

Moon travelled extensively across France, Italy, Belgium, Germany, Netherlands, Istanbul, Iran, and many other places, but holds a particular affection for Copenhagen in Denmark, where he eventually settled for two and half years, earning a good living work-

ing in the shipyard Burmeister and Wain.

It was also in Copenhagen where he and his wife Roisin had their first child. By 1977, however, Wicklow was calling again and they returned to live near Carnew and raise their family.

He worked in Arklow Engineering for a number of years before starting his own business based in Carnew, initially serving the farming community and also designing and making decorative wrought iron goods, eventually turning to fabricating stain-

less steel goods for the catering trade.

He is now retired and keeps a small flock of Jacobs sheep, three donkeys and a pony on the hillside in County Wicklow where he and Roisin still live.

"I want to thank Dubray Books in Bray for hosting the launch of the book," says Tony, "and thanks also to Bridge Street Books in Wicklow Town which is also stocking the book."

Travel with Moon is also available on Amazon, from the Post Office in Tinahely, and in the garage in Carnew.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

SOCIAL HOUSING ASSESSMENT 2023 IMPORTANT NOTICE IF YOU ARE AN APPLICANT ON WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL'S LIST FOR SOCIAL HOUSING SUPPORT

Wicklow County Council intends to carry out a Social Housing Assessment in accordance with Section 21 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2009.

The Social Housing Assessment 2023 is a review of all applicants approved for social housing support with Wicklow County Council prior to **11th August 2022**.

The Council has written to all relevant Applicants using the current, most up to date address on file. If you have moved address please contact the Housing Section in writing to update your address details as soon as possible.

Each approved Applicant is required to complete a form and return it with supporting documents (where necessary) before **28th August 2023**. If you have any difficulty with completing this form, you can contact the Housing Section for assistance:

Email: hna@wicklowcoco.ie

Tel: 0404 20100

If you fail to return this information within the specified time period, your application for Social Housing will be closed and you will be removed from Wicklow County Council's list for Social Housing Support.

All approved Social Housing Applicants should return their forms by **28th August 2023** to:

Theresa O'Brien,
Senior Executive Officer,
Housing & Corporate Estate, Wicklow County Council,
County Buildings, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow.



Wicklow nursing home residents participating in national music performance

Wicklow Nursing Home residents are participating in a special national music performance this week to mark Nursing Homes Week 2023. The Music Speaks broadcast, taking place on Monday 21st August, will encompass performances from over 100 nursing home residents from over 30 nursing homes.



Agnus McCabe speaks to a carer and Niamh Kavanagh after she performed with the Mobile Music Machine at Asgard Lodge Nursing Home in Arklow as part of Nursing Homes Week.

Residents from Greystones Nursing Home will deliver a special performance of You Are My Sunshine during the broadcast.

Nursing homes in Co Wicklow and across the country will be hosting music-themed celebrations from Monday 21st to Sunday 27th August to mark Nursing Homes Week 2023. The Music Speaks performance will be broadcast to over 400 nursing homes with 25,000 residents across the country and available for the broader public to watch via NHI.ie. It features renditions of classics such as Danny Boy, Molly Malone, When Irish Eyes Are Smiling, Can't Help Falling in Love, You Are My Sunshine, Que Sera, Sera, intertwined with performances by residents of different instruments, including piano,



Niamh Kavanagh and the Mobile Music Machine performing at Asgard Lodge Nursing Home in Arklow as part of Nursing Homes Week. The theme for 2023's celebrations is music.

accordion, bodhran.

The Music Speaks performance is a highlight of the broader online Music Speaks festival which will mark the national celebration of nursing home care.

The Music Speaks festival will include performances from Mobile Music Machine with Niamh Kavanagh, Sive Ross Scanlon performs John McCormack, John Spillane. Further, performances from the Irish Traditional Music Archive will be opened up to nursing home residents and an online dis-

cussion will be hosted discussing the impact of music on nursing home residents.

Tadhg Daly, Nursing Homes Ireland CEO states: "We are thrilled to have brought together a very special performance of nursing home residents to mark Nursing Homes Week 2023 and our Music Speaks festival. Nursing homes are home to truly very special people, who are tremendous characters and have a rich legacy in song and music. Our Music Speaks performance encompasses one

resident who is 100 years of age playing accordion, a 98-year-old delivering an excellent piano solo, a 95-year old singing Boys from the County Armagh.

"Residents love to sing and perform and the Music Speaks extravaganza honours the talents of the very special people in our society who are nursing home residents. Music fulfils an absolutely integral role in nursing home care, providing comfort to residents, stimulating memories, bringing them together, and it gives great joy and

happiness. The festival we have created is truly unique, bringing residents together for a very special range of performances and events over the course of a week. It will feature outstanding performers who supported nursing home residents during Covid19, a trip down memory lane for residents via the Irish Traditional Music Archive, and a discussion on the impact of music in our nursing homes. We wish residents and staff a very happy Nursing Homes Week 2023."

Wicklow winners at Comhaltas All Ireland Fleadh Cheoil

Over 5000 competitors from all over Ireland and overseas played, sung or danced for Comhaltas All Ireland titles at Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann 2023 in Mullingar. Winners from Co. Wicklow were 13C Mileoidean / Melodeon (15-18), 1st place, James Lambert, CCE, Wicklow Miners; 6D Consairtín / Concertina (O18), 3rd place, Donagh McElligott, CCE, The Boathouse.

From storytelling to concertina, sets to lilting, victors of regional competitions travelled far and wide to compete in one or more of the 230 competitions. The competitions play a central role in the Fleadh and title holders are highly regarded in the traditional Irish music community.

For the second consecutive year, the All Ireland competitions were held in the historic, cultural and very musical town of Mullingar. The town was home to the first ever All-Ireland Fleadh in 1951. It hosted again in 1963, 2022 and 2023. Over the past nine days the streets have been overflowing with Irish music, dance and culture once more.

The Ardstiúrthóir of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, Labhrás Ó Murchú, said, "We are delighted to return to Mullingar for the second year of the homecoming. Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann began here in 1951 and it is extraordinary to see how big and beloved it has become. 72 years ago it was a small event; this year 600,000 people came to celebrate Irish culture."

He continued, "I would like to congratulate all winners of the competitions. There was an incredible level of skill and talent from all contestants, as there is every year. Few

people can say they are an all Ireland winner, so all should be very proud of their amazing achievements."

Joe Connaire, Chairperson of the Fleadh Executive Committee said, "It has been a pleasure to witness so many people enjoy traditional Irish music, song and dance in Mullingar once again. I am grateful that the town's beauty and character was the backdrop to the Fleadh and I hope all enjoyed our home as much as we do."

He continued, "It takes a lot of people to make such a wonderful event and create the beautiful moments we will remember from 2023. I would like to thank everyone who helped to make the past two years so successful."

The 51st Annual Scoil Eigse, the official summer school organised by Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann, ran throughout the week with over 500 Irish and international students of all ages taking part in various music, singing, dancing and Irish language classes.

Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann 2024 will take place in Wexford town on 4th-11th August 2024. For all the results and further details on the Fleadh and competitions, visit www.fleadhcheoil.ie.

Joining a choir can improve your mental health

Turn2Me, a national mental health charity, is encouraging the public to sign up to sing in a choir and stated that it can have mental health benefits. The charity listed the many benefits of being in a choir including a strengthened feeling of community, a reduction in stress levels and an improved feeling of social wellbeing.

The charity referenced a study titled 'It's better together: The psychological benefits of singing in a choir' by Nick Stewart and Adam Lonsdale, which compared choral singing to two other relevant leisure

activities, solo singing and playing a team sport, using measures of self-reported wellbeing, entitlement, need fulfilment and motivation. Questionnaire data from 375 participants indicated that choral singers

and team sport players reported significantly higher psychological well-being than solo singers. Choral singers also reported that they considered their choirs to be a more coherent or 'meaningful' social group than team sport players considered their teams.

"Joining a choir can bring a feeling of inclusiveness, collegiality and pride after performing," Fiona O'Malley, CEO of Turn2Me, said, "It is also a great opportunity to meet new people and make new friends. Many people struggle making new friends when they finish secondary school or college,

because these are environments where we're forced to spend time with people in our classes, and friendships grow organically. When these social structures are taken away, peo-

ple can struggle to make new friends."

Fiona stated that there will be a great concert in aid of Turn2Me with the brilliant Belle Harmonics Pop Rock Choir on the 29th September in the Pepper Cannister Church. Doors open at 7pm and the con-

cert starts at 7:30pm.

Belle Harmonics Pop Rock Choir is a dynamic 30-member group that performs songs by artists like Sia, Kate Bush, Beyonce, and Fleetwood Mac. Formed in 2018, Belle Harmonics Pop Rock Choir is already well known to the

stages and festivals of Dublin, recently performing to sold-out audiences in the Grand Social and The Sugar Club.

All funds raised will go towards Turn2Me, a national charity that offers people free counselling services. For tickets see www.eventbrite.com



Belle Harmonics Pop Rock Choir

MEP calls for introduction of a Culture and Media Card for young people

Irish MEP for the Midlands–North-West constituency Colm Markey is urging the Irish Government to introduce an initiative that would see a Culture and Media card worth €200, presented to every young person on their 18th birthday, unlocking cultural experiences and media consumption.

"After having just attended the fabulous Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann in Mullingar recently and seeing the exceptional talent and rich cultural heritage on offer there, I think we as a Country can do more to support our indigenous arts and culture sector from a young age. I firmly believe that investing in the cultural growth of Ireland's young citizens is an investment in the nation's future prosperity and identity. By providing this special gift to young adults as they come of age, Ireland can cultivate a generation that deeply values its cultural heritage and embraces diverse artistic expressions."

Markey sees the Culture and Media Card, which is supported by the National Youth Council of

Ireland, as a symbolic recognition of teenagers transition into adulthood. It empowers them to shape their cultural journey, exploring the arts, music, literature, theatre, and more, as they discover and celebrate their unique interests.

Markey continued: "The Culture and Media card could be stored and accessed on an app and used at designated selling points including bookshops, theatres, museums, galleries, and small music venues. With access to cultural events and media offerings, young adults can unlock their creative potential and contribute to the vibrant cultural tapestry of Ireland. The Culture and Media Card serves as a catalyst for self-expression and innovation. The

initiative would also have the added effect of injecting vital support into Ireland's cultural industries. By nurturing the demand for cultural experiences, it creates opportunities for artists, performers, cultural institutions, and media producers, strengthening the country's creative economy.

"As a nation with a rich cultural heritage, Ireland has a unique opportunity to inspire and empower its young citizens on their journey into adulthood through the Culture and Media Card. By introducing this visionary initiative as part of Budget 2024, Ireland sends a resounding message of support for its youth and commitment to a thriving cultural landscape."

New independent film explores the future of food

Tadhg Byrne, a chef from Wicklow, has set out to create a documentary on the future of food in Ireland. The film will take a deep dive into how Ireland has both coped in the past with food supply and how the country can seek to become more self sustainable into the future.

The film will hear contributions from leading players in the Irish Food industry such as Michelin star chef, restaurateur and author JP McMahon, Irish TV chef Catherine Fulvio (TBC), lobby groups, farmers, academics, state agencies and politicians.

Speaking on the reception so far to the film, Byrne has said "The fact that so many people with high-powered jobs have been willing to give up their time to be in the film and the many encouraging emails we have had, reminds me this is a very important project and I think it will be well received nationwide."

Commenting on the importance of the film

JP McMahon said "Food affects every single aspect of our lives. If we don't look at the how, why and where our food is coming from, then we lose control of that food."

Irish filmmaker Max Barry, who is set to direct the project, expressed the importance of the film, "When Tadhg came to me with the idea I was very excited to help develop the project. As supply issues, inflation, climate change and war in Europe continue to cause instability, how we will grow, process, market and eat our food in the future is something that needs to be highlighted. With his film, I hope to shed light on how food

ends up on our plate in Ireland."

Byrne and Barry are still looking for participants to get involved. Barry notes "The more people willing to talk gives us a better picture of how the future of food in Ireland will look. If you are interested, don't hesitate to get in touch!"

The film is set to premier in December 2023 in Dublin.

Tadhg leads the team at the Wicklow-based catering company Fed Up. He has a Culinary Arts Degree and has worked in several restaurants including Wicklow's Brook Lodge.

Tadhg says that he's been obsessed with food since he was a child reading the backs of

cereal boxes and wondering what 'fortified with iron' meant. This curiosity continues to this day, as he continues to explore the history of politics of our global food system. He has over 20 years' experience in multiple aspects of the hospitality industry, motivated by an interest in all things food and beverage. Tadhg writes a food blog on the feed.ie and is currently researching a book he plans to write about life in the kitchen.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Intention to apply for retention permission as set out below.

Planning permission is sought by Brendan Loughlin for retention of two existing extensions to the rear of the existing single-storey detached house at Filley Park Lodge, Upper Dargle Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow, Eircode A98XV99. The first extension (the single-storey extension to the rear of the original 1840's house) was constructed in the early 1980's, while the second extension (the two-storey extension to the rear of the first extension) was constructed in 1990. A car-port was constructed in the mid 1990's, and this application also seeks retention permission for same. The application also seeks retention permission for the reinstatement and upgrading of a series of partially overgrown raised terraces at the end of the rear garden, and the provision of additional steps and safety rails to replace existing. It also seeks retention permission for the erection of large new fencing panels to provide a new "face" to the existing large boundary fencing panels already in existence on the site. Finally, it includes the provision of a new roller shutter door to replace the existing garage doors, and the provision of a new soakaway to absorb rainwater from the already-existing hardstanding areas. This application seeks to tidy-up the planning status of these historical elements of the house, while at the same time, applying for retention permission for the small number of recent works as here listed.

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.



The Lament of Sankey Karoo

a seasong as told to Irene Plazewska

Irene Plazewska's art exhibition, Elegy for Ennereilly, opened last week on August 15th in Arklow Library, and runs until 31st August. The exhibition is also part of Wicklow Heritage Week. Elegy for Ennereilly is an exhibition of 18 photographs of empheral sculptures which were constructed on Ennereilly beach from 2020 till recently. Irene has also launched a small book 'The Lament of Sankey Karoo' a sea shanty about a small driftwood girl.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Clara Romano seeks planning permission for: Proposed single storey extension to rear and side of existing dwelling at 34 Glendale Drive, Bray, Co. Wicklow. A98 Y6N9

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



WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I, Rory Benville, intend to apply for permission for development at this site: Riverview House, 1 to 1A Seapoint Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow. The development will consist of: a change of use from office to residential use, and the provision of a new opaque window to the rear elevation at first floor level. 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

Intention to apply for planning permission and retention permission as set out below.

Planning permission is sought by Packaging Laundry Ltd for removal of existing single-storey joinery workshop building and adjacent yard, and for construction in its place of new nine meter high single-storey storage/processing building, on site at former home of Wicklow Timber and Joinery Ltd, Wurtzburg Avenue, Boghall Road, Bray, Co Wicklow (Eircode A98WD37). This site is immediately adjacent and adjoining the existing home of the applicant company, Packaging Laundry Ltd, at Unit C, Oldcourt Business Park, Wurtzburg Avenue, Boghall Road, Bray, Co Wicklow, (Eircode A98P6N3), and the application includes retention of an external cylindrical water storage tank, and minor items of external plant. It also includes for retention of an existing lean-to building which houses a chipping machine, and retention of an existing wall-mounted wash-area canopy. Other minor associated works will include the provision of markings for car parking, markings for a turning circle, and markings for loading areas, and gates to the external storage areas. Signage, too, is included as illustrated. While the proposed building is intended for storage and display purposes only, it should be noted that Packaging Laundry Ltd do hold a Waste Licence (EPA Waste Licence under the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended) on the existing Packaging Laundry site immediately adjacent. Finally, it should be noted that the existing Wicklow Joinery road-entrance from Wurtzburg Avenue will be closed-over, and the proposed building will be accessed via the existing Packaging Laundry apron within Oldcourt Business Park. 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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County Wicklow Citizens Information Centre publishes annual report

A space where people feel safe and free from judgement and discrimination, where they are treated holistically and with empathy, free from judgement and discrimination to find the best solutions for their problems. That is what the South Leinster Citizens Information Service (CIS) aims to do, and, considering their achievements of 2022, they went far beyond expectations in accomplishing this mission.

South Leinster CIS 2022 Annual Report has just been published. Despite a reduced workforce, the dedicated staff and volunteers delivered an outstanding quality service, assisting 8,022 callers - that is a 16 per cent increase compared to 2021! Queries, totalling a whopping 18,356 last year, range from social welfare supports to employment and housing queries to assisting migrant communities

among many other topics of information.

The increase in footfall was also based on the reopening of the drop-in clinics, Monday to Friday mornings across the county, enhancing service delivery and providing a more consistent service.

Advocacy is a means of empowering and supporting people to access their rights and entitlements and reach a desired outcome. This

can be a short-term engagement, such as writing a letter or making a phone call on behalf of the customer, or a complete and longer-term process, such as preparing people for, or representing them at, social welfare appeals, the Residential Tenancies Board and Workplace Relations Commission or Labour Court hearings. Throughout the year, the CIS team worked on over 70 advocacy cases

in areas such social welfare, employment and housing.

One of the highlights of last year was Implementation of the Equality and Human Rights Duty Public Sector Duty. All public bodies in Ireland have a responsibility to promote equality, prevent discrimination and protect the human rights of those affected by their policies and plans. While South Leinster CIS is not

a public body and therefore does not have the same legal obligations, it nevertheless fully implemented the Duty recognising the importance of equality and human rights to its governance structures and interactions with customers and the team.

Almost all customers who used the CIS would recommend the services: 98.5% would be happy to use the services again which is a high accolade.

One of the applicants captured it in a nutshell: "From a position of near hopelessness with my initial situation to complete success when the CIS advocated for me. Words can't cover how grateful I am for all the help."

"While the job can have its challenges, it is ultimately always fulfilling. There are times when our work can be difficult. Listening to people's worries, prob-

lems, and, on occasion, despair can be challenging. However, the reward is witnessing them leave with a sense of hope, viable options, a lighter step and perhaps even a smile," declared Martina Cronin, Development Manager for Co. Wicklow CIC.

Martina added: "Whoever you are, whatever stage in life, we are here to help. Our services are free and confidentiality is key for us. If we cannot help, we will know where you can get the assistance you need."

Funded by the Citizens Information Board, the range of areas covered by the CIS are wide including social welfare rights and entitlements and other social issues such as employment, health services,

housing, education, family matters and consumer rights on which people need access to information.

For anyone needing impartial, confidential, non-judgemental and informed advice and support the CIS is here to help. Its website www.citizensinformation.ie is packed full of helpful information.

To find out opening hours or if you would like the CIC to address a specific query or to book an appointment with a member of the team please contact your local Citizens Information Centre. There are offices in Arklow and Bray where customers can drop-in, telephone or make an appointment. Telephone: Arklow - 0818 07 6750 and Bray - 0818 07 6780.

New BMW 5 Series arrives - with petrol option

The BMW 5 Series was first launched in the 70s and over five million of them have since been sold worldwide. In the early days the powertrain was a fine petrol powered six cylinder engine of either 2.0 litre or 2.5 litre capacity.

By Martin McCarthy

The latest generation of 5 series - unveiled at Automotive Team's HQ at Sandford recently - is a stunner inside and out. The main focus is on the i5 - an all-electric variant - but BMW are wisely hedging their bets and a offering petrol version. The diesel powered variant will be available in other markets but not here. The new BMW 5 Series 520i petrol pricing starts from €69,850, the new all-electric i5 eDrive40 starts at €90,110.

Personally, I have had

four 5 series - the first in the 1980s and they have been fantastic cars. All were bought second hand as three year olds and were incredibly solid and well-built with the later 520Ds being amazingly economical - returning 40mpg+.

The Society of the Irish Motor Industry have just released their official 232 new vehicle registrations statistics for July.

New car registrations for the month of July were up 24% (27,148) when compared to July 2022 (21,904). Registrations year to date are up 20.1% (104,641) on the same period last year (87,115). Light Commercial vehicles (LCV) are up 42.5% (5,664) compared to July last year (3,974) and year to date are up 35.3% (22,997). HGV (Heavy



The all new BMW i5

Goods Vehicle) registrations are also showing an increase of 27.6% (374) in comparison to July 2022 (293). Year to date HGVs are up 33.4% (1,927).

Imported Used Cars seen a 4.83% (4,409) increase in July 2023, when compared to July 2022 (4,206). Year to date imports are up 3.96% (29,435) on 2022 (28,315).

For the month of July 4,161 new electric vehicles

were registered compared to 2,729 in July 2022 (+52.47%). So far this year 18,458 new electric cars have been registered in comparison to 11,175 (+65.17%) on the same period 2022.

In July, the car market share grew, with petrol retaining the largest share at 32.29%, Diesel accounting for 22.06%, Hybrid 18.04%, Electric 17.64%, and Plug-in Electric

Hybrid 7.67%. A surge in battery electric vehicles, Plug-in Hybrids and Hybrids now see their combined market share (year to date) at 43.35%.

Brian Cooke, SIMI Director General said "The new car market for the first month of the 232 registration plate indicates a strong performance, with an increase of 24% on the same month last year. Improved production over

the last few months has helped supply catch up with demand, resulting in July new car sales almost matching those of the key selling month of January. The new car market year to date now stands 20% ahead of 2022 and less than 1% behind pre-Covid 2019. Commercial registrations, both the heavy and light sector, also continue to be well ahead of last year."

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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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Salary: €27,146 - €44,110 per annum gross (includes 1st LSI)
REF: 44/2023

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 THURSDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 12 NOON.

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,
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Wicklow.

Phone: 0404 20159
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Cathaoirleach of Baltinglass Municipal District Edward Timmins, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Emer O'Gorman, Manager of the PURE Project Ian Davis, Alana Sweeney, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Cllr Aoife Flynn-Kennedy and Rhys Davis are pictured at the Tinahely Show.

Fourteen Wicklow businesses named in Best of Ireland 2023

Fourteen Wicklow businesses have featured in Best of Ireland 2023. The annual publication provides a comprehensive guide to Ireland's best restaurants, shops, venues, attractions, hotels, events, and more. In a major coup for the tourism industry in Wicklow, fourteen of businesses have been listed under the best that Ireland has to offer.

These businesses are Canopy, Fashund, Firehouse Bakery, Glendalough Sanctuary, Glenmalur Lodge, Greenan Maze, Juju, OSKA, Powerscourt, Shuttle Knit, The Harbour Bar, Tinahealy Farm Shop, Wicklow Head Lighthouse and Glendalough Visitor Centre.

The annual publication which landed on shelves this week, provides a comprehensive guide to Ireland's best restaurants, shops, venues, attractions, hotels, events,

and more. From drinking and dining out, to shopping, to exploring the music scene through clubs and festivals, Best of Ireland 2023 reveals the essentials.

Aisling Bea, starring in the recently released film Greatest Days, graces the cover of this year's Best of Ireland magazine and shares details about her career in an in-depth interview before sharing 'Bea's Best', her recommendations in Ireland.

This action-packed publication

covers all aspects of life in our beautiful country, with informative guides, handy listings, and insightful interviews with some of the many artists, actors, writers, musicians, chefs, and sportspeople who have ensured that Ireland keeps punching above its weight across the board including, Andrew Omobamidele, Lisa O'Neill, Paul Murray, Shane Daniel Byrne, Marketa Irglova, Conor Murray, Orla Gartland, Josh Ritter, Caroline O'Donoghue and Shiv.



Chef Tadgh Byrne, Linda Minchin and CEO of St. Catherine's Michael Ward are pictured at the St. Catherine's Association's summer event on the grounds of Newcastle Hospital last Wednesday.

Calls for businesses across Wicklow to enter this year's Financial Services Awards



FS Awards programme partners, pictured at the KPMG Offices, Dublin where they gathered to launch the 2023 gala event, which takes place on October 26th. Sarah Freeman, Editor, Business & Finance pictured with Ian Nelson Head of Financial Services, KPMG Ireland. Pic: Andrew Norton.

Organisers of the 2023 FS Awards (Financial Services) in association with KPMG, are calling for entries from businesses across Wicklow to help recognise Ireland's top financial services leaders.

The event will take place on Thursday, 26th October 2023, at the Round Room, Mansion House, Dublin, with a gala ceremony attended by Ireland's leading financial services company executives, teams and brands. The FS Awards were established to celebrate excellence in financial services, whilst recognising the brightest minds in the sector and showcasing innovation.

Following on from the inaugural event in 2022, the awards will reaffirm Ireland's position as a global financial services hub and a unique gateway to Europe for global and local businesses alike.

A number of new categories have been added to this year's awards, making it the biggest yet. They include:

- Fintech Team of the Year (New)
- FS Trust Award (New)
- Fund Management

- Company of the Year (New)
- Fund Admin Company of the Year (New)
- Sustainable Finance Award (New)
- Employee Experience Award
- Sustainable Investment Award
- Specialist Lender Award
- Customer Experience Award
- Innovative Banking Product Award
- Fintech Innovation Award
- Insurance Innovation Award
- Payments Innovation Award
- Compliance & Reg Tech Award
- International Finance Award
- Diversity, Equality & Inclusion Award
- FS Challenger Award
- Grand Prix Award

Finalists for the FS Awards are chosen by a judging panel of independent industry experts.

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