



WOMEN'S SHED
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CHARLES LAND WIPEOUT
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LIGHTHOUSE ROOF
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Tuesday 24th October 2023 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

NOBODY WAS CONSULTED

The announcement last Monday by the government that they were going to establish a Ukrainian Refugee transit Camp at Annamoe catering for 950 people has been met with a mixture of anger, surprise, concern and resignation by various public representatives.

Senator Pat Casey (Fianna Fail) who lives and runs a business in the area said "It was with great shock that I and the community of Annamoe and surrounding areas heard of the plan to house 950 Ukrainian people in this very isolated rural area. All of us in the Roundwood, Laragh and Annamoe community have welcomed and continue to welcome and integrate Ukrainians fleeing the war but this mas-

sive increase to the local population was announced with no consultation at all with local representatives or community groups.

"The secrecy surrounding such accommodation measures is disastrous for all of us who are working to integrate and welcome Ukrainians into our communities in Wicklow. Wicklow has and continues to accommodate one of the largest number of Ukrainians in

Ireland but there is an urgent need to improve on communication which is vital if we are to maintain and improve our integration process.

"Local residents at the proposed site learned of this via media announcements and this is unacceptable and wrong. I have met with the local community in Annamoe and we are seeking further information immediately on the proposed accommodation



Pupils from Carysfort National School in Arklow went all out to celebrate the school's 200th anniversary, dressing up in period costume for the occasion. See page 14 for more.



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in order to make integration work.

"The Government Departments involved in this need to urgently adopt a new communication process on refugee accommodation to ensure we retain our success in welcoming and integrating these families fleeing the war. The secrecy surrounding this site and accommodation proposal is totally wrong and very damaging to the proud record of the people of Wicklow in welcoming and supporting refugees."

Councillor Shay Cullen (Fine Gael) who represents the area said "My initial reaction is one of shock at the sheer scale of numbers of Ukrainian people to be accommodated at Glendalough estate. The location is a large farm in a very rural location in Annamoe with absolutely no facilities.

"The briefing docu-

ment is suggesting that this is a rest facility and residents will be moved on after several weeks. There is nowhere to move on to in my opinion so that would suggest that numbers will remain at that 950 level consistently. I will seek clarification on this when I meet the department. My annoyance is that there has been no communication with local representatives, community groups or the wider public in Annamoe, Roundwood or Laragh which has been unacceptable. This whole project is in the wrong location with the numbers excessive and with no facilities."

Deputy John Brady, Sinn Féin's spokesperson on Integration said "There was poor communication from the department. I only found out immediately prior to it being made public. It was very clear that it was a done deal at that stage.

"The information flow was very much a one-way process.

Officials were not really prepared to listen to any concerns that

might exist at that stage. I would like to know if any

Continued on page 5

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Tilly Kavanagh celebrating 30 years of the Roundwood Lotto at St. Laurence O'Toole's National School in Roundwood.

The Old Dublin Society

Francis Thackaberry will present his lecture recalling 'Vagabonds and Beggars: Institutional provision for the Poor in 18th Century Dublin' at 6pm on Wednesday October 25th in the Conference Room of Dublin City Library and Archive, 139-144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2. All are welcome - admission is free - no booking required.

Christmas Tea Dance

Laragh's annual Christmas Tea Dance will take place on Sunday 19th November in the Brockagh Resource Centre from 3pm to 6pm. Music by the Wicklow Man. All groups must book in. Admission €10. Contact Denise on 0404 45600 or email brockaghoffice@gmail.com to book for groups.

Holy Rosary soup and sandwiches

The Holy Rosary Soup and Sandwiches lunch is back again on Wednesday 25th October in Kilian house family centre from 12.15 to 2pm. Everyone is welcome to come along for food and a friendly chat. Suggested donation is now €7. All proceeds are given to local charities.

Anam Cara meeting

The Anam Cara Wicklow Monthly Online Meeting for Bereaved Parents takes place on 23rd October. Anam Cara supports all bereaved parents, regardless of the age of their child or the circumstances of their death. This informal and gentle evening gives an opportunity to meet with other parents. Meeting is in a

safe and comfortable place with people who understand the milestones and challenges of grief and loss. Please contact Anam Cara for details of online meeting 085 2888 888, info@AnamCara.ie.

Greystones University of the Third Age

'Making the Invisible/Visible' is the title of the talk that will be given at Delgany Golf Club on 26th October at 10.30am by Dr. Bruce Misstear, lecturer from TCD. The talk will cover hydrology and how essential water has become around the world. The talk will also include the great merits of water and the hidden nature of this precious resource. There is a charge of €5 for the talk and tea/coffee. Details from info@u3agreystones.com. The University of the Third Age aims to promote and practice lifelong learning and active, creative ageing for the older members of the community.

Clean Coasts monthly clean up

The Clean Coasts North Wicklow Monthly Beach Clean will take place on 29th October in Greystones. Meet at Rise at the Cove; starting at 10am. Come along to help keep our beautiful beaches clean, keeping them waste free and minding our marine life. Equipment is provided and all are welcome.

Festival of Lights

The Diwali Celebration, Festival of Lights, takes place on 4th November in Greystones Rugby Club from 6pm onwards. The festival signifies the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil. A perfect occasion to come together and celebrate these values. Guests of Honour will be Cllr Aoife Flynn-Kennedy, Cathaoirleach Wicklow County Council, and Supriya Singh, candidate for local elections in Donaghmede Ward Dublin. The festival will feature: Cultural Performances, Delicious Cuisine and Diwali Traditions. Details of booking and further information from Pratiksha Kamat, 089 967 9090. Pratiksha would very much appreciate advance notice of your coming for catering purposes.

Scrap Collection

Donate your scrap at the Brockagh Resource Centre from the 27th - 31st Oct. Some of the items you can bring are biscuit tins, steel oil tanks, steel window frames, steel coal bunkers, car batteries, radiators, solid fuel cookers, sheep wire, bicycles, old cars without the tyres, steel wheelbarrows, golf irons, etc. STRICTLY No fridges, freezers, cookers, timber, plastics or tyres! Please do not remove scrap or metal from the premises. CAMERA IN OPERATION! You can contact the Brockagh Resource Centre by phone on 0404 45600 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm), email brockaghoffice@gmail.com, www.brockaghresourcecentre.ie.

Halloween costume swap gives old threads a new lease of life

Greystones' first Halloween costume swap shop took place recently and was a huge success. Organised by Green Party councillor Lourda Scott, Clodagh O'Neill and Barbara Connolly of 'Green Thread', hundreds of costumes were swapped and given a new lease of life.

In Ireland we throw away 110,000 tonnes of clothes each year and the aim of the event was to encourage people to reuse and cut back on the consumption of textiles.

Speaking after the event Cllr Scott said: 'There was a great buzz at this event with so many kids delighted to browse through all the different costumes and masks to find their new dress up outfit for Halloween. Often an outfit is only worn once or twice before they grow out of it so we received lots of donations, which were as good as new. It's fantastic that the community supported this so well. Not only is it good for the environment, but also good for people's pockets and fun!'

Barbara, who had brought some of her stu-



Barbara Connolly, Clodagh O'Neill and Cllr Lourda Scott at the costume swap event

dents from the Green Thread after school sewing classes to alter and mend costumes on the day, said "I am particularly passionate about reusing, upcycling and the circular economy.

Myself and my team offer workshops to secondary schools on the environmental and social impact of the textile industry. This swap shop was another lovely way of preventing clothes

ending up in landfill and incineration.'

Clodagh, a keen maker and proponent of slow fashion said "Last year, we went to the Rediscovery Centre in Ballymun to source Halloween costumes from their swap rails. I thought it was a brilliant way of saving these perfectly good costumes from landfill. I was very excited to organise this event with Lourda and Barbara. We were thrilled with the response from local community here in Greystones and we are buzzing with ideas for the coming year."

Leftover costumes were distributed to people from Ukraine and local charity shops. The next swap shop event will be Christmas themed, taking place on Nov 18th, 12pm to 2pm in Greystones library.

Advice for pet owners during fireworks season

Veterinary Ireland is advising pet owners on measures to keep their pets safe this Halloween. As their hearing is much more sensitive than us humans, most pets are scared by sudden, loud noises, as well as flashes of light and so the weeks leading up to Halloween can be a very distressing time.

Veterinary Ireland is issuing the following advice to pet owners this October: "Ideally, try and ensure that someone remains with your pet when fireworks may be heard, and especially on the night of Halloween.

"Provide a den or a hiding place where your pet can feel safe. Make your pet a comfortable bed here, with old sweat-shirts and other clothing to give your pet a sense of your reassuring presence. A crate with some blankets over it is ideal for a dog. A cat may prefer to hide in a high up location such as the top of a wardrobe.

"Keep your pet inside with the doors and windows closed and your favourite radio station switched on in the room. Provide an extra litter tray for cats.

"Make sure to exercise your dog early in the day and give your pet something to do in the evening (such as chewing a frozen food-stuffed dog toy).

"Ensure that all pets are wearing identification

tags and have microchip identification - just in case your pet runs away from the sound of fireworks, the chances of being reunited significantly increase with identification.

"Ignore fearful behaviour such as panting, shaking or whining. If owners give such animals extra attention in an attempt to "comfort" them, the pet may perceive this as a reward for displaying this type of behaviour and it can make matters worse over time.

"Do not punish your pet for anxious behaviour

such as scratching at doors or house soiling. This can also tend to exacerbate anxiety and make matters worse.

"There are plug in diffusers, sprays and collars containing pheromones, as well as other products available from your vet, all of which can help to relieve anxiety in pets.

"In severe cases visit your vet who may be able to prescribe medication to help in the short term.

"In the long term, some pet owners may need to ask their vet or a qualified behaviourist about noise desensitisation to prevent

worsening of the problem.

"Please do not share any of your Halloween sweets or treats with your pet - chocolate can actually be dangerous for pets, especially dogs, and can make them sick and/or choke.

"Pet costumes - not all pets like or appreciate dressing up, so ensure that your pet is happy with whatever costume you might wish to dress it up in. Also ensure that the costume is made for your pet and is for the right size and species, or it might be painful and restrictive to wear."

At Wicklow Library

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on Tuesday 24th of October at 11am.

Please come along and have a chat with our local Community Garda, Niall Kennedy, where he will share some personal safety advice ahead of Halloween and the Winter season.



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'Game changer' for tourism in South West Wicklow

Public consultation opens on Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway project

The public consultation for the Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway project is now open and will remain open until 2nd November.

The project aims to build on the success of the Tinahely Railway Walk, which connects the towns, villages and communities in the area. The Council is currently finalising the Phase 2 options Selection Stage, which will identify the preferred route before moving on to the Design & Environmental Evaluation phase.

In recent years, significant consultations with landowners and stakeholders have been held, leading to design developments and constraint studies. Changes were made to the route to address concerns while preserving its continuity. The Project Team remains committed to further consultations, aiming for consensus on the final route and delivering a premier Greenway. Plans are set to seek project approval from An Bord Pleanála in 2024. If approved, it will advance to Phase 5, involving the procurement of construction contractors.

Speaking at this month's meeting of Wicklow County Council, West Wicklow Fianna Fail councillor John Mullen said "I think there was a red letter achievement with the publication of the detailed websites and

the start of the public consultation on the long-awaited Arklow-Shillelagh Greenway. The first public consultation was held in Arklow last week, which was very well attended, and there was a huge positive reception to the Greenway.

"The production of the detailed route, preferred route options, are an extraordinary depth of detail and explanation on each preferred route. I want to praise the team that's been doing the consultations and making themselves available to various interested members of the public.

"It is essential that we move on with it. This is a 16-year saga. It is a long-awaited development. It is a game changer for tourism in the southwest region, and we really need to get the plan in place."

Submissions can be made to wicklowgreenway@wicklowcoco.ie; on www.wicklowgreenways.ie; or via post to: Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway Project, Transportation, Water & Emergency Services, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Whitegates, Wicklow Town, WA67 FW96.



Barbara O'Neill, Maureen Rowden and Gina Wilkin at the launch of the Sunbeam House Film Festival last week.

Bray South Beach closed to swimming for 15% of annual bathing season

Jennifer Whitmore TD has raised concerns about bathing water quality in North Wicklow. This comes on the back of the publication of a Newsworthy investigation, which found that Bray's south Promenade Beach was closed for 15% of the annual bathing season this year, which runs from the 1st of June to the 15th of September.

swimming spots is a source of such activity and pride, I want to see us being more proactive. This issue is not limited to Bray South Beach. Silver Strand also had bathing restrictions for 5% of this year's swimming season. Going into the winter, we need to better handle this issue so that next year's swimming season doesn't see restriction notices like we had in 2023."



Deputy Whitmore at Bray Seafont



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
(An tAcht Togcháin 1992)

CEANTAIR VÓTAÍOCHTA AGUS
ÁITEANNA VÓTAÍOCHTA

FÓGRA DRÉACHT-SCÉIM VÓTAÍOCHTA
Á DÉANTA

Tá dréacht-Scéim Vótaíochta ullmhaithe ag Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin a roinntear an Contae ina Cheantair Vótaíochta i gcóir toghcháin agus reifrinn agus chun Ionad Vótaíochta a cheapadh do gach Ceantar Vótaíochta.

Tá cóipeanna den dréachtscéim ar fáil lena scrúdú le linn uaireanta oifige ag Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin, Foirgnimh an Chontae, An Geata Bán, Baile Chill Mhantáin, Co. Chill Mhantáin A67 FW96. Tá an dréachtscéim ar fáil ar líne freisin ag www.wicklow.ie

Cuirfidh an Chomhairle cóip den dréachtscéim ar fáil d'aon duine a dhéanfaidh iarratas uirthi ach táille €20.00 a íoc.

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Ba cheart aon uirill a chur isteach i scríbhinn chuig an té atá sínithe thíos.

Lorraine Gallagher,
Stiúrthóir Seirbhíse,
Seirbhíse Fiontair & Corparáideacha,
Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin,
Foirgnimh an Chontae,
An Geata Bán,
Baile Chill Mhantáin,
Chill Mhantáin,
A67 FW96.

Dáta: 18 Deireadh Fómhair, 2023.

Deputy Whitmore said "Today's reporting from Newsworthy about the notices of swimming bans around the country shone a light on the situation we saw in Bray this past summer. During the 2023 swimming season, Bray South Beach Promenade was closed to swimming for 16 days or 15% of the season. It is also worth noting that the number of days on which Irish swimming spots have been restricted in the last decade has trebled.

"There were several reasons for this, one being excessive bacteria in the water following heavy rain. The reality is that climate change means that far heavier rainfall is likely in the years ahead, and we need to be able to be proactive about what that means for our coastal community in Wicklow.

"Runoff from agricultural land and urban runoff is another contributing factor to swimming restrictions. This is also about how we use land surrounding water sources, including the sea, in a way that does not harm them. Testing is one key way to identify when sewage or bacteria is at unsafe levels in swimming spots.

"In a county like Wicklow, where access to our beautiful seaside

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North Wicklow Women's Shed opens its doors

All women, whether 18 or 108 years old, invited to connect, make friends, learn new skills, or just chat over a cuppa

North Wicklow Women's Shed (NWS) already boasts 1,800 Facebook followers and now can celebrate welcoming 40 women to its first morning event on Thursday 28th September.



Orla Finn, NWWS Chair, welcoming new members. Pic: John McGowan

Chair of NWWS Committee, Orla Finn, said "After months of hard work from our volunteer committee, we were excited but also a little nervous about opening. We were delighted to see so many women come along this morning to join our group, many on their own but not for long, as conversations were free flowing, as everyone enjoyed an old-fashioned natter and a chat over a cup of tea and biscuits."

NWWS will cater for a range of activities from arts, crafts, yoga, well-being, mental health, topical speakers, women's health to name

a few. Mostly though, it is a safe space for women of all backgrounds from across North Wicklow to come together, just for an hour or two, have a chat over a cup of tea, and then in between, do some activities.

The committee for the North Wicklow Women's Shed, made up by Orla Finn Chair, Aileen Richardson Mac Carthy, Elaine Casey, Laura Costello, Noelia O'Reilly, Sinead Merrigan, Rebecca Molloy, Teresa Mulvaney and Anita Tuesley; look forward to welcoming women from across our community to come along. Whether on your own or with a friend, all are welcome and as we embrace our values of empowerment, inclusivity, friendship, respect and fun.

If you'd like to join in the fun, NWWS morning meetings are held Thursdays 11.30am - 1pm at the Villa Pacis (Corner of Putland Rd & Vevay Road, Bray/ Our Lady Queen of Peace Church). Evening meetings are coming, so check their Facebook page for further details. Women interested in coming along can also reach out to them on info.northwicklowwomensshed@gmail.com.



Some of the NWWS Committee members: Backrow (left to right) Laura Costello, Rebecca Molloy, Orla Finn, Sinead Merrigan, and Front row (left to right) Teresa Mulvaney, Elaine Casey, Noelia O'Reilly. Missing from the phot are Aileen Richardson Mac Carthy and Anita Tuesley. Pic: John McGowan



New members attending first morning for opening of NWWS. Pic: John McGowan

New campaign for nursing home in Greystones

Independent councillor Stephen Stokes is backing a new campaign to deliver an affordable nursing home in Greystones. The campaign is being spearheaded by the Irish Goa Association. A packed fundraising dinner took place on Friday, October 6th at Greystones Rugby Club.

Cllr Stokes stated: "I would like to thank the organising committee. It was a successful and enjoyable evening. There is a critical need for more nursing home places across North Wicklow. People want peace of mind that they, or their family members, can be looked after later in life, and in their local area."

Cllr Stephen Stokes has called on the Irish Government to plan for decisive nursing home provision. Cllr Stokes added: "Nursing home care is under pressure. During the past three years over thirty nursing homes have closed down. As such I will fully support any initiative to develop and enhance nursing home care across Charlesland, Delgany, Greystones, Kilcoole, Killadreenan and Newcastle."

Cllr Stephen Stokes highlighted a report commissioned by Nursing Homes Ireland. He noted: "The report

outlined that a third of nursing homes are losing money. The Head of Nursing Homes Ireland, says it is now closer to

half that are running at a loss. On that basis it's not rocket science to expect private providers to exit the market. We

also have a growing population. Now is the time to plan for increased nursing home demand in the future.

However it is good to have local action to try to do something about this issue in the Greystones District."



Cllr Stephen Stokes with Nora Hayden and Milla Hancock

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Government's briefing note on temporary emergency accommodation

This briefing note was provided by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to ensure you are informed of developments in your area in relation to emergency accommodation for those fleeing the war in Ukraine (Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection, BOTPs).

Update in relation to Glendalough Estate

From the 20th of November onwards, on a phased basis, 950 beds in Temporary Winter-ready Accommodation will be provided for people fleeing the war in Ukraine in the Glendalough Estate. The accommodation will be heated, insulated own-door, en-suite cabins, all enclosed in large heated marquee-type structures containing ancillary facilities.

- All statutory requirements relating to the establishment and management of emergency accommodation are being met by the service provider, including health and safety, fire, building regulations and other requirements. The safety and security of the BOTP residents is of paramount importance.
- The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth will manage the arrival of people into this site.
- The Department has signed a

contract for this site for a period of thirty-two weeks.

Glendalough Estate - Ukraine Temporary Accommodation, County Wicklow 2022. C - Questions and Responses

1. How many people are intended to be accommodated in the Glendalough Estate? What will the resident breakdown be at the building?

The maximum capacity in this centre is for 950 people. The residency will be entirely made up of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection fleeing the war in Ukraine. The profile of arrivals from the war in Ukraine to date is mainly women and children.

2. How long can people expect to stay there? What is the duration of the contract?

The term of the contract for the

site is for thirty-two weeks. Residents will stay at the accommodation for a number of weeks, with support services provided at the site to assist BOTPs in adjusting to life in Ireland and to aid better integration and independence.

3. What are the conditions at the site - what are the sleeping arrangements, toilets, showers, etc.? What are the catering arrangements for the building?

The winter-ready accommodation at Glendalough Estate is in own-door en-suite heated and insulated cabins, enclosed within large marquee-type structures that are also heated, containing all ancillary facilities. There will be various configurations to accommodate families, couples, single persons etc.

The overall site will be secured appropriately. The accommodation provided takes careful consideration of BOTPs' welfare needs and includes the following services: hot catered meal service provision, on-site access to an advanced

paramedic and first aid service, shower and toilet facilities in each own-door cabin; self-service laundry facilities; sanitation and refuse services; indoor dining facilities; indoor and outdoor recreational spaces; utilities (hot water, heating) easy access between accommodation and other amenities.

All cabins will be enclosed in a marquee-type solid sided structure complete with cassette floor system and rigid wall panelling throughout, complete with doors, glass panels and ramps.

4. What about transport to and from the site?

The accommodation provider will provide regular private transport to Wicklow Town/Greystones/Bray.

5. Who are the owners and who are operating on site? What experience do they have?

The accommodation facility will be operated by PASTURES NEW LIMITED. The management of the company has experience in large scale event development, the commercial hospitality sector and human welfare supports to asylum communities in direct provision settings.

6. How many staff are on site? Is there a presence there 24/7? What are the security arrangements for the accommodation?

The site will be staffed with a team to include the facilities manager, community manager, facilities management, welfare staff, food service staff, cleaners and a 24-hour presence for on-site security and medical staff.

The safety and security of the

BOTP residents of the site is of paramount importance. The site will be appropriately secured and managed at all times by security. Each resident will be issued with a lanyard displaying photo ID, which they will be required to show on entry and exit. Standard procedures (incl. visitor log) will apply for guests visiting the site.

7. Are there appropriate fire safety measures in place?

All statutory requirements pertaining to the establishment and management of emergency accommodation at this site are met.

8. Will residents retain a degree of privacy in this accommodation?

As above, residents will be accommodated in own-door en-suite heated and insulated cabins which are private.

9. How will BOTP applicants be provided with PPS numbers? Are some of them eligible to work?

BOTP applicants are provided with full medical checks, medical cards and PPS numbers on arrival into the Citywest before transport to their accommodation. They are then eligible to seek work and many people have done so and are making a positive contribution to the local and national economies particularly in areas where there are skills shortages.

10. What health supports are available to BOTP Applicants?

BOTP applicants are provided with full medical checks and medical cards on arrival into Citywest. A full list of HSE supports is attached to this briefing note at

Appendix A. As part of this communication and engagement process, the national HSE lead has been notified of this centre opening and they will liaise with local services.

11. What about school places?

The winter-ready accommodation at the site will facilitate short-term stays by BOTPs and there will be no requirement for additional school places as a result.

Support services will be provided at the site to assist BOTPs in adjusting to life in Ireland and to aid better integration and independence.

12. What integration supports are available to provide day-to-day activities to the BOTP Applicants?

As Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection Ukrainian people receive housing, health, education, income and other supports.

13. Is any assessment provided to BOTP Applicants to ascertain their needs or vulnerabilities?

All BOTP arrivals are given a full medical and health check on arrival to assess their needs.

14. Is Wicklow the only area considered for this type of accommodation, or have other areas in the country been examined? How many other centres like this are in operation?

Emergency accommodation centres have been opened in all parts of the country. These options must be considered to prevent homelessness for the unprecedented numbers of people arriving seeking protection.

NOBODY WAS CONSULTED

Continued from page 1

investigations or scoping was done beforehand to determine the suitability of the site for what will be home for almost 1,000 people.

"The needs of 950 individuals, if they are to be catered for properly it would represent a significant logistical challenge. Will the contract that was signed with the providers be made public, will the details be made available? Are there provisions in place for

inspections of the site.

This is intended for families, there will be quite a number of children. Will HIQA or/and TUSLA have access to the site? Have the staff received child safety training have they been vetted to work with children? What health and safety regulations will be in place? There are a lot of things that go wrong on a site this big. It is important if people are to be housed there that they are going to be safe and that there is a proper and correct regulatory review of the site's safety on a regular basis throughout its use.

"There really is a question for the government as to whether this is a thought out strategic initiative, or are we just witnessing the latest in a long line of fire-fighting exercises in relation to the whole area of accommodation for refugees?"

Minister Simon Harris (Fine Gael) commented "This latest project is certainly large in scale. I appreciate that and I am very eager that the com-

munity are closely updated, that a liaison team between the facility and the Council and the community is appointed, that the facility is operated to very high standards in terms of safety and that it is carried out in a way that is supportive of the beautiful natural environment in that part of our county. I will remain in close contact with Minister O'Gorman and will work with the community to address any questions they may have."

Steven Matthews (Green Party) while welcoming the project also had concerns: "This proposal is to provide temporary accommodation for woman, children and families fleeing the violence and terror from Russia's invasion of Ukraine. These are ordinary citizens of Ukraine who were leading lives similar to our own, working, going to school and college and raising their families. They have had to flee for their lives, in many cases bringing only what they can carry. It is a horrific war and we should do all we can to assist with this humanitarian crisis.

"The number of people proposed to be temporarily accommodated is significant and obviously raises concerns for local residents in terms of services available. Understandably people have questions about

how this will work and if it will impact on services that may already be under pressure. I understand that full account of the necessary medical, educational, recreational and transport requirements are catered for in this proposal. All temporary accommodation will adhere to fire safety, power, water and wastewater standards.

"I have requested that local residents, businesses and other service providers will be provided with clear information on the proposal in order to alleviate any concerns they may have."

Jennifer Whitmore TD

(Social Democrats) gave a cautious welcome to the project saying "Wicklow has stepped up to the plate when it has come to welcoming those fleeing war into our community. I am very proud of the welcoming and supportive response we, as a county, have given displaced people in need of refuge. And look, there will always be challenges when it comes to the displacement of people due to the terrible war in Ukraine, but there is something innate in the Irish psyche which has compassion and an understanding regarding the loss of home.

"When the arrangements were first announced for the housing of refugees in Glendalough, there were some concerns within the community. However, the details provided by IPAS about the nature and resourcing of the site should allay those fears. According to IPAS this is an emergency accommodation arrangement, and residents will only be there for a matter of weeks at a time. The site itself would appear to be self-sufficient and should not result in any resourcing issues for the wider community. The accommodation is insulated,

own-door and heated, which is crucial. There has also been provision made for on-site educational and medical services, which is very welcome.

"One concern I do have regarding the site is that we need to ensure that this initial level of resourcing is maintained for the duration of the stay. In the Dáil, I raised the issue of HIQA inspections of temporary accommodation sites with the Taoiseach, and ask that HIQA be tasked with inspections and ensuring a robust quality assurance mechanism is in place."



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The clearance that has taken place at the Charlesland site

Concern over environmental 'wipeout' in Charlesland

Concern has been raised following large-scale clearance of trees and vegetation in Charlesland, Greystones, on a site beside the Three Trout River and close to Burnaby Mill.

The land is part of Bundle 5 of the social housing PPP Programme, a joint effort by the National Development Finance Agency (NDFA), the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and Local Authorities. The plan includes the construction of 270 social and affordable properties. The recent land clearance was carried out by Wicklow County Council at the request of the site investigation company working on the project. Land nearer to the stream has remained uncleared to preserve a riparian area.

Reacting, Cllr Derek Mitchell said "This scale of site clearance is normally only done when construction starts with planning permission which follows a detailed landscape plan. This clearance also goes down to the Three Trout Stream through the riparian area in at least one place.

"The Council Chief Executive states it is for 75 houses, as was outlined 5 years ago. Some people state it is for 270 houses. This is a major increase when the May

2022 Census showed the that the town was then already over its 2028 population target. Many more houses have been built since.

"I also want to see the site fenced for safety. The houses should be designed so that they have limited impact on adjacent homes and also should have 60% affordable homes

"This work has been done without notice to the Councillors in a sensitive area where the 41 Social Houses were very controversial and only passed by a 3 to 2 vote. This is no way to start a complex infill site."

Cllr Stephen Stokes said "We need to protect our environment. This clearance seems to be a prelude to a future housing development down the line. However it seems premature to clear this site so extensively right now. We know that houses are needed, but we need to carefully consider how we can minimise the effect on the environment. This reminds me of a sweeping clearance, like something you would see in South America for plantation farming."

Cllr Stephen Stokes has written to several departments in Wicklow County Council about the matter. He believes that the clearance is contrary to the tree management policy of Wicklow County Council. This policy states that trees and hedgerows are vitally important for wildlife and biodiversity, good for the environment, enhance the quality of our landscape, and improve human health. They also help to mitigate climate change and flooding, prevent soil

erosion and can add value to the economy.

Cllr Stokes added: "In addition to the tree management policy, I do not believe that the clearance matches up with the County Development Plan. I have been advised that this work has been carried out by the Housing Department of Wicklow County Council. Even if the Council decided that we absolutely need to clear the site for houses, I believe that we could have maintained the vegetation for several years, until the project is finalised."

Cllr Stephen Stokes is seeking precise answers to a number of concerns. These include, who approved the work, and whether the site will be re-planted. In addition Cllr Stokes is concerned about potential anti-social behaviour. He further stated: "We need open dialogue about this matter. I'm deeply concerned about leaving this site wide open, with large amounts of loose wood lying around."

He is calling for a decisive plan to be put in place to immediately improve the site. He concluded: "When we take out trees, we lose a key resource to tackle emissions in the community. We need to be precise with our building and planning. Most developments in the Greystones area are built on greenfield sites. Once they are gone, they are gone forever. I will continue to press to protect the local environment."

Construction on the housing development is expected to commence in 2025.



Cllr Derek Mitchell



Cllr Stephen Stokes at the site



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Oldcourt Castle site in Bray goes to market

There has been a lot of concern from local residents about the news that a large site in Bray has gone on the market.

Oldcourt House, its castle and grounds is being offered at a guide price of €5 million.

The site is located off the Vevay Road and beside the Giltspur residential scheme. The house and castle are protected structures and have been incorporated into the feasibility study. The remainder of the garden will provide the development potential of the sale.

The Swan River passes through the site and there are also protected mature trees along the river valley. The lands are enclosed by 20th century housing estates on all sides, with Sunbeam House residential property to the east, sharing the same access road from the Vevay Road.

The site is currently up for sale. No development has been proposed yet and no planning permission has been sought at this time.

The site advertised for sale, recently reported in the Irish Times, is privately owned land which was partially zoned for housing in the 2018 Bray Local Area Plan. Private developers may buy this site and seek permission for residential housing.

The original zoning proposed a greater amount of residential land and a reduction in green space and tree loss on both sides of the river.

When he was sitting on Wicklow County Council, Green Party TD Steven Matthews fought to ensure that any residential



Deputy Matthews

development on a privately owned 12-acre site for sale in Bray, will be appropriately balanced by protected green zones.

Speaking last week, Deputy Matthews said "I put forward an amendment that protected the riparian zone trees and increased the amount of green open space and restricted housing to one side and at an appropriate distance from the river. I was concerned that loss of green space and trees would increase surface run off to the river, increase flood risk and negatively impact on biodiversity.

"Thankfully my sensible amendments were agreed and the proportion of land for green space and trees to land for housing can clearly be seen on the site map in the Bray Local Area Plan. The area in brown is where housing can go and the area in green will be preserved as green open space.

"During the development plan process I was contacted by residents from Giltspur Wood and Charnwood who were concerned about vehicular access and through roads constructed in any possible future development so I also had an amendment included to cover that issue. This ensured that the access road to this site is from Vevay Road along the avenue to Oldcourt House and will not be via Charnwood or Giltspur Wood. I also proposed that the wrought iron gate and square stone pillars at the entrance avenue will be preserved and stepped back to improve sight lines at Vevay Road.

"These small details and beneficial amendments were made quietly and without fanfare over 5 years ago but will protect and preserve the natural environment of the site and Swan River valley and the architectural heritage of the entrance avenue into the future. This is why it's important to have Green Party councillors in your local area, who care about nature and who understand planning and environmental protection."



Melissa Byrne and Anna Dillon at the launch of the Sunbeam House Film Festival and opening of the garden at the Cedar Estate on Kilkenny Road in Bray last week.

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Elegant new Greystones development perfect for families

Fairfield is an elegant new development on New Road in Greystones which features a special selection of new homes including 2-bedroom ground floor apartments, 3 -bedroom duplex homes and 4-bedroom semi-detached and detached houses. These beautifully crafted high-spec new homes are perfect for families, both big and small.



Duplex living room

Developed by Durkan, Fairfield consists of 82 units in total, with 16 units to be released containing a mix of 2 and 3 bedroom homes. The 4-bedroom homes are to be released in the coming weeks. The interior design was done by Jane Duffy Lynch. Fairfield is located only a short stroll from the bustling main street in Greystones, making it unrivalled in terms of location. The proximity to both natural beauty and a vibrant community is truly

remarkable. It's the ideal place to enjoy coastal living, whilst still being within easy reach of the city, whenever required. Fairfield with its unique setting offers the rare opportunity of easy access to the town of Greystones, the schools, sporting facilities and excellent transport links, all within walking distance or a short bike ride. Durkan continues to be a family-run business and stays true to its original ethos and character, which holds honesty, authenticity and excellence at its core. Their mission is 'To safely deliver the most energy-efficient family homes through integrating design, construction tech-

niques and new technologies that ultimately create a dynamic and healthy building environment that is sustainable in every sense.' Examples of Durkan's work to date include: Sillan, Vartry Wood, Bishops Gate and The Grove.

Apartment & Duplex Special Features

External Features: High-quality brick and render finishes complement the energy-efficient Munster Joinery UPVC double-glazed windows. Both the ground floor apartments and three-bedroom homes boast spacious, paved patios, with storage areas available for the latter. External lights are fitted at all unit entrances and patios.

Media: Units are pre-wired for high-speed CAT 6 broadband, with TV and data points in the main bedroom and living room. Infrastructure is ready for both Virgin and Eir services, and USB charging sockets are provided in primary rooms.

Wardrobes & Storage: Full-height Shaker style wardrobes are present in all rooms, with the master bedrooms' wardrobes featuring LED strips.

Heating & Energy Efficiency: Homes use heat pump systems, zonal controls, and Mechanical Ventilation Heat Recovery systems (MVHR) to maintain temperature and air quality. All units



Houses exterior

achieve an A2 BER rating, benefit from superior insulation and airtightness, and utilize energy-saving LED fittings.

Bathrooms & Ensuites: High-quality tiling, pressurized showers, separate bath options for duplex units, and premium sanitaryware by Niko define the bathrooms. All bathrooms come equipped with heated towel rails.

Kitchen and Utility Rooms: The kitchens, designed by FitzGerald Kitchens, come with LED strips, stone worktops, and integrated appliances. All homes have utility rooms, and the two-bed apartment features a bespoke kitchen

bench for open-plan living. **Interior Finishes:** Homes enjoy elevated ceiling heights on the ground and first floors, painted doors, stylish skirtings, architraves, and a consistent internal white finish. All interiors are plaster skimmed traditionally.

Structural Features: All homes are built using Insulated Concrete Formwork (ICF), boasting concrete walls and floors for superior sound insulation and solidity.

Warranty: Each home comes with Homebond Structural and Latent Defects Insurance (10 years) and Mechanical

and Electrical Defects Insurance (5 years).

Houses

The houses are a must-see in Fairfield and are not to be missed with extra ceiling heights finished with detailed coving, stylish skirtings, brushed satin brass finish ironmongery, and antique brass sockets and switches. With impressive Kitchens, Bathrooms, and Master Bedrooms you will need to see for yourself.

Selling Agents: DNG New Homes, 30 Leeson Park, Ranelagh, Dublin 6. Tel: 01 4912600



Apartment and duplex exterior

Unit types released:

The Schooner (Type A) - 2 bed own door apartment on ground floor of the duplex block c. 79 sq m/c. 850 sq ft.

Priced from €490,000

The Caravel (Type B) - 3 bed duplex over first and second floors of the duplex block c. 122 sq m/c. 1,313 sq ft.

Priced from €575,000

The Caravel (Type B) - 3 bed duplex over first and second floors of the duplex block c. 122 sq m/c. 1,313 sq ft.

Priced from €575,000

The Galleon (Type C) - 4 Bedroom Semi Detached Houses c. 170 sq.m/1,830 sq.ft.

The Brigantine (Type E2) - 4 Bedroom Detached 3 Storey House c. 213 sq.m/2,293 sq.ft.

The Clipper (Type E3) - 4 Bedroom Detached 3 Storey House c. 240 sq.m/2,583 sq.ft.

Prices from €900,000



Apartment kitchen

Pure Mile groups ready to clean up at awards night



The 2023 Pure Mile Awards Night will return to the The Brooklodge Hotel in Macreddin, Aughrim, on Thursday 26th of October. The Pure Mile is an environmental, community, heritage initiative, established by Pure, which encourages communities and groups living in rural areas to adopt a mile, or miles, of road, and keep this area litter/rubbish free, research information about their local wildflowers, plants, trees, animals, and the built, cultural, and social heritage of an area.

Ian Davis, Pure Project Manager commented: "This will be the 14th year of the Pure Mile, with the largest number of groups and volunteers involved in the project since it was established in 2009. The first year we had 5 miles of road, and this year, 14 years later, we have over 900 miles of road, mountains, woodlands, valleys, forestries, and upland amenities, with over 3,500 volunteers. The Pure Mile demonstrates that people want to make a difference to the environment, and Pure gives them the assistance, so they can make that difference. The Pure Mile Awards Night is Pure's way of thanking all of the people involved in the Pure Mile, and it enables Pure Mile Groups to meet up all together for one night and one night only."

On the awards night every group will receive a Pure Mile Certificate

of Participation, a selection of native Irish trees, and all will be included in the popular Pure Mile Calendar, which will also be launched on the night. Certificates of Recognition will also be presented to a number of groups with £6,000 of prize money being handed out to the winning Pure Mile Groups and their volunteers.

The Pure Mile is the perfect opportunity for communities and groups who want to make a positive contribution to their locality and environment, and assists people in improving and enhancing the place they live in, or recreate in. Special interest groups such as, walking groups, cycling groups, running groups, hiking groups, businesses, and organisations, adopt a mile, or miles of road, in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands and help Pure to 'Clean Up The Wicklow/Dublin Uplands'. Pure

provide all groups with Pure Mile signage, Pure Mile high-vis vests, Pure Mile bags, gloves, and litter pickers, and Pure also removes all of the rubbish collected by the groups.

If any groups, communities, individuals, schools, walking groups, cycling groups, scouts, businesses, ANYONE, want to get involved in next year's Pure Mile, they can contact Pure at info@pureproject.ie or download an application from www.pureproject.ie/what-we-do/the-pure-mile/. You can also write to; Pure Project, Unit 6 B, Riverside Business Centre, Tinahely, Co Wicklow, Y14 R978, and they will post out all the information, or request an application form and information pack by phoning Pure on 0402 28662.

Further information on Pure can be found on www.pureproject.ie

Restoration of Wicklow Harbour Lighthouse successfully completed



The roof being restored on the Wicklow East Pier lighthouse

Early morning walkers at Wicklow Harbour were treated to a pleasant surprise last week when the restored top section of the East Pier lighthouse arrived back from Arklow Marine Services to be reinstalled to the remaining structure.

The original copper dome, dating back to 1884, disappeared in a winter storm in 1976, and was salvaged in a badly damaged condition by local fishermen and divers shortly afterwards. It was then stored in a boatyard on the seafront which closed during the eighties. Its location became a mystery after that until it was found several years later in another shed.

Mr John Tyrell of Arklow Engineering was very doubtful at first whether the badly crushed dome could be repaired at all but one of the members of the staff of the boatbuilding firm said he would give it a go, and he succeeded.

Port supervisor Colm Dempsey commented that it was great to see the port owners' Wicklow County Council putting the investment into restoring the working lighthouse.

Local man Pat Davis, well known for his many murals on Wicklow pier, recalls that the dome disappeared the same year that he started painting on the pier 47 years ago, and is delighted to have it back in situ. The remaining electrical work is expected to be completed shortly.

SSE Renewables supports Arklow's Golden Circle

Golden Circle is a community group that brings together senior citizens from the Arklow and surrounding area to promote integration and help avoid social exclusion amongst the elderly.

The group arranges events and helps older people stay connected to each other and to the community. Its activities include arranging events, providing information, organising trips and an annual cultural outing. This year's cultural outing was to the West of Ireland and took in experiences in Connemara, the Burren, Galway city with a special visit to the 'Quiet Man' Museum in Cong.

A group of over 60 departed on Sunday morning, 1st October for

a five-day tour. Gertie Salley from Golden Circle said: "The tour group includes those are widowed, single and older couples, many of whom would not be able to travel independently but take comfort in know that everything will be taken care of for them. The donation from SSE Renewables towards our transport costs for the cultural tour is gratefully appreciated".

Deirdre Keogh, Community Engagement Manager, SSE

Renewables said: "SSE Renewables welcomed the opportunity to support the application made by Golden Circle as part of its social value proposition to the community in Arklow and the surrounding area". She acknowledged the work undertaken by volunteers and wished the group well as they set off on their trip.

For information on the SSE Renewables Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Sponsorship Fund, contact deirdre.keogh@sse.com



Community Engagement Manager for SSE Renewables, Deirdre Keogh (second from right), with members of the Golden Circle community group in Arklow



On Tuesday 10th October a photographic exhibition and 2024 calendar was launched by the local Ukrainian community in Wicklow Library. This idea created by Tanya Ivanova is to raise funds for families suffering during the war in her native Ukraine. The calendar features 12 local Ukrainian ladies photographed at various locations throughout Wicklow dressed in their native colourful costumes. Each photograph has been enlarged and mounted and the display was enjoyed by the large attendance at the exhibition in the Library. The photographer is Yulia Radro, a talented young Ukrainian lady who also specialises in videography. The calendars are available at the Ukrainian Hub beside Wicklow Gaol and the exhibition will travel throughout the country over the coming months.

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Gill Toal, Harry Williams, Rev Cathy Hallisey and Tina Roche

Enniskerry Tidy towns launch new community garden

On Saturday 14th October in conjunction with National Community Gardens Week, Enniskerry launched its new community Garden at Dixons Meadow, Enniskerry.

Gill Toal, chairperson of the Tidy Towns group, welcomed everyone before giving a brief overview of the history of the area.

The name of the Garden is taken from a noted character during the 19th century Margaret Dixon or the widow Dixon as she was called, who lived close to the well and whose name it still bears. History reveals that she was a generous neighbour, who allowed the Catholic community free use of her barn for services at a time when no Catholic Church existed in the area.

The well at Dixons barn which is still there was used to supply the water troughs and

drinking water at the town clock, in the centre of the village.

The open area beside the well was known as the fair green, and from the mid-19th century a monthly fair was held on this open space, which is now the community Garden.

In reimagining the space we were very conscious to recognise the historic significance of this old well as part of the Village history and chose to name the new garden "Dixon's Meadow Community Garden"

But we also wanted to create something different and decided on an edible garden and reflective space but somewhere the com-

munity could interact with, which was achieved by making herbs and fruits available to the public to take away, use and enjoy.

She added that the formal structures in the garden were built from re-used granite from the wall that was removed opposite and re-used heritage red bricks sourced locally, and re-used granite kerbing stones used to create the rill. Heritage apple trees, herbs and a wildflower meadow and flowers some of which are edible and others medicinal all carefully chosen to feed an array of beneficial and pollinating insects in line with the Tidy Towns ethos of conserving and improving biodiversity in our community.

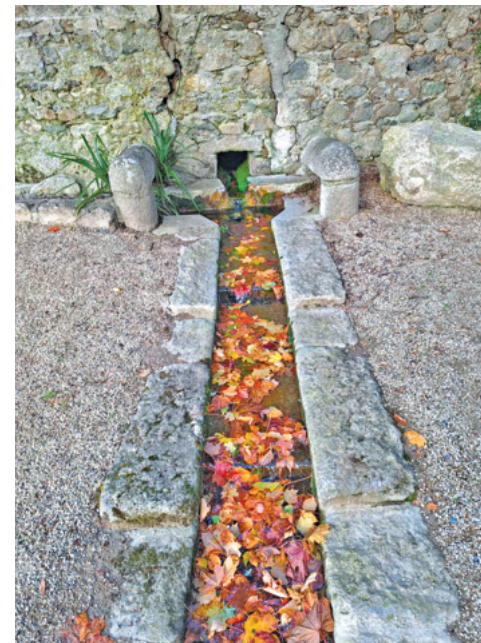
Local Garden Designer Ashlene Ross was thanked for bringing the design together and especially for her vision for the extension of the water rill to heighten the sounds of the flowing and falling water, for this reflective corner.

Anita Tuesley Tidy Towns Volunteer spoke of the new biodiversity plan that the Tidy Towns has had done and the plan for its launch on November 11th with speakers on how we can biodiversity at home in our own gardens.

There were several readings on the day to add to the cultural and nature experience, as well as music from the Wren boys group.

Local Poet from the Glencree Valley Judy Russell read some of her beautiful work on the beauty of the natural area in Enniskerry.

Harry Williams, a lifelong resident and farmer in



Enniskerry read a poem about his life in Enniskerry and history of the village and its shops, and Cartiona the librarian from Enniskerry gave a witty and insightful reading of some prose relating to all things gardening.

Cathairleach of Bray Municipal District Cllr Melanie Corrigan, also an active member of the Tidy Towns Committee officially launched the opening of the Garden. She spoke about how funding was received from Town and Village funding applied for in 2020 by the Enniskerry Tidy Towns, Business association supported by herself and Cllr Rory O'Connor

She thanked Wicklow County Council for their support, and Bray Municipal District especially Liam Burke District Engineer, and John Connor and the local team of workers in Enniskerry for their outstanding work reimagining the space. Thanks were also

expressed to Alex Slazenger and his team from Powerscourt Gardens, who volunteered their time to help, as well as all the Tidy Towns Volunteers and neighbours in the area.

Tidy Towns in Enniskerry she said is not just about keeping the Village clean and supporting the biodiversity in the area. But it also collaborates and reaches out to all local groups, The Bog Meadow Group, The trails, working with the joint Parishes, our good friends in the Pure Mile, and organises the annual Christmas festival. Cllr Corrigan thanked especially Gill Toal and Marie Power for the over 20 years of service they have given to the work in Tidy Towns and said it was a small but mighty group of volunteers, always looking for new members and a great way to get to know your neighbours, and give back to the Community you live in.



Cllr Melanie Corrigan with the other committee members of Enniskerry Tidy Towns

Call for Nature Restoration Fund to be used for National Park Expansion

ReWild Wicklow chairperson and local election candidate, Danny Alvey, has called for some of the Government's new £3 billion Climate Action and Nature Restoration Fund to be used to expand the national park in Wicklow. Last month, Danny launched a petition to add 16,000 hectares of land to the park which has been signed by nearly 3,000 people already. The current national park is the largest in Ireland at 23,000 hectares, this plan would mean almost doubling it to 39,000 hectares.

"The announcement of a new dedicated fund for climate action and nature restoration in this week's budget is welcome," said Mr Alvey. "But it makes no sense that this fund won't be available until 2026. We're several years into a climate and biodiversity crisis, we needed these funds yesterday, not three years from now."

"If the Government is serious about nature restoration they need to make this fund available immediately. I have a project ready to go on State land, which has the potential to be one of the biggest in the country, and 3,000 people have already backed it. In fact, it would cost the State very little from that fund, as all of the land is already owned by us, the public, and would just mean transferring its management from the state agencies Coillte to the National Parks and

Wildlife Service.

"A couple of weeks ago the Government announced a new National Park for Ireland with the purchase of the former Dowth Estate in Meath. But this piece of land is only a mere 223 hectares in size. Should it even be called a National Park? As it stands, our National Parks don't stand up well internationally when compared in size. Our largest, the Wicklow Mountains, at 23,000 hectares, is smaller than the UK's smallest, The Broads, at 30,300 hectares. Their largest is Cairngorms in Scotland, which is a staggering 452,800 hectares.

"If nature is to recover on this island, if species are to come back from the brink of extinction and others are to be re-introduced, they need significant amount of space. The plan

I've put forward would create this, it would involve rewilding and restoring approximately nine valleys throughout the Wicklow Mountains to be added to the iconic Glendalough valley. It would create a flagship nature restoration project that would be huge value for money from this new dedicated fund.

"The reason my plan has got so much local support here in Wicklow is not just because we are a county of nature-lovers, but because people can see the huge opportunity it presents for recreation, eco-tourism and the local economy."

The petition comes with an interactive Google Earth map showing the colour-coded zones for the land being referred to and can be read in more detail and signed on change.org at the link [chng.it/FFdPZFb4CT](https://www.change.org/p/danny-alvey-rewild-wicklow).



Danny Alvey working on a peatland restoration project in the Wicklow Mountains National Park

Council urges public to celebrate Halloween safely

Wicklow County Council is appealing to people to stay safe this Halloween and reminds the public to celebrate the occasion responsibly and discourage the use of bonfires.

Bonfires are illegal and in accordance with the Council's commitment to ensuring safety and environmental responsibility, Wicklow County Council will not undertake the cleaning up of the remains of bonfires after the event.

Any clean ups remain the responsibility of the residents concerned, with the exception of situations which involve significant safety concerns.

In the following instances, consultation with the Fire Service will be required and a waste contractor may be brought in to remove material:

- Where dangerous materials are involved such as gas cylinders
- Where the bonfire is situated close to wires, trees, or property.

If anyone encounters a bonfire being built that appears likely to pose a significant danger of this type, please contact the Waste Management Section of Wicklow County Council during office hours at 0404 20127 or email envcomplaints@wicklowcoco.ie.

Clean-ups will require the presence of the waste contractor, an Environmental Warden and An Garda Síochána for security reasons. Please note that clean-ups will



not take place after the 30th October.

Wicklow County Council urges people to celebrate Halloween safely and responsibly this year. While we discourage bonfires, we encourage alternative ways to enjoy the holiday such as community events, costume parties and other exciting activities. By working together and respecting our policies, we can

ensure a safe and enjoyable Halloween for all.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, commented that: "Bonfires are upsetting for many local residents. They can leave people in fear of the risk from fires getting out of control, anti-social behaviour and the distress they cause to pets. People suffering from respiratory problems will suffer more than others. There are better ways to celebrate and enjoy the evening with friends."

Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, Emer O'Gorman, added: "Halloween is always the busiest night for our emergency services including Fire, Ambulance and Gardai. They are diverted from urgent work unnecessarily to respond when bonfires or crowds around them cause problems. Help them do their job by celebrating in a responsible and safe manner without bonfires or antisocial behaviour."

For further information and inquiries, please contact: Wicklow County Council Waste Management Section, Phone: 0404 20127 (During office hours) envcomplaints@wicklowcoco.ie



Terry Kavanagh presents a raffle prize to Shane O'Brien at the event to celebrate 30 years of the Roundwood Lotto, in St. Laurence O'Toole's National School in Roundwood

Guíonn Údaráis Áitiúla Chill Mhantáin Samhain Sona Oraibh

Fógra tábhachtach
Tinte Chnámha/Tinte Mídhleathacha
Bí ar an eolas agus Bí Cúramach!!

D'fhéadfaí cas a thabhairt in aghaidh aon theaghlach, duine aonar nó gnó a thugann ábhar dramhaíola d'aon duine chun úsáid i dtinte cnámh, go h-áirithe i rith na samhna.

Nótáil: nach ndéanfaidh Comhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin aon ghlanadh suas tar éis tinte chnámha neamhdhleathacha agus nach mbeidh an comhairle freagrach as costas aon ghlanadh suas tar éis tinte chnámha neamhdhleathacha.



Happy Halloween from Wicklow Local Authorities

Important Notice
Illegal Burning/Bonfires
Be aware and Beware!!



Householders, businesses or individuals who give their waste to anyone for bonfire purposes, particularly at Halloween will be liable for prosecution.

Please Note: Wicklow County Council will not carry out clean ups after illegal bonfires and will not be responsible for the cost of any clean ups after illegal bonfires.



Wicklow hosts 5th National PPN Conference

Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN) and Wicklow County Council hosted the 5th National Public Participation Network Conference in the Arklow Bay Hotel on Thursday 5th and Friday 6th October. The conference was attended by over 200 delegates representing community & voluntary, social inclusion and environmental groups throughout the country as well as local authority officials, elected representatives and others who support the work of PPNs.

The theme of this year's conference was Participation in Action. The Conference programme included presentations and workshops that showcased a wide and diverse selection of structures, processes, community work & policy development from across the PPN spectrum.

Site visits were one of the highlights of the programme. Some delegates travelled to Aughrim Community Sports & Leisure Centre where they were met by people representing a plethora of community groups in the Aughrim community. After sharing their stories everyone had a chance to try out an activator pole activity provided by the Wicklow Local Sports Partnership. Other delegates travelled to Avondale to experience

why Beyond the Trees Avondale has been recognised as the first Age Friendly tourist destination in Ireland. They learned about the recently launched Age Friendly Strategy and the Disability Toolkit developed to support groups to be more accessible for People with Disabilities. A heritage focused walking tour and environment focused walking tour of Arklow was also well received and provided groups with the opportunity to share their experiences and support each other in these areas of mutual interest. Those who stayed in the hotel got the opportunity to network with community groups such as Wicklow Travellers Group, East Wicklow Youth Service, Arklow Town Team, Wicklow Comhairle na

Nog, West Wicklow Environmental Network, Wicklow Planning Alliance, Hollywood Community Forum, Little Bray Family Resource & Development Centre, and Common Ground Cooperative Housing.

Welcoming the PPN delegates, Wicklow Cathaoirleach, Aoife Flynn Kennedy said, "The establishment of PPNs in 2014 through the Local Government Reform Act has brought communities closer to local government".

Wicklow Chief Executive, Emer O' Gorman said "We were delighted to support and host this year's Conference in Wicklow with Wicklow PPN. The National PPN Conference is a great opportunity to showcase the collaborative work between PPNs and local government".

The conference was also addressed by Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O' Brien T.D. at a gala dinner on Thursday evening.

Aoibhinn McCloy, representing the Wicklow PPN Secretariat, acknowledged the many community groups, organisations, staff, and volunteers that worked to make the conference a success. She also expressed the hope that delegates would be inspired and motivated to initiate some of their learnings from the conference into their own communities.



Wicklow PPN Delegates pictured with Minister Joe O'Brien: (left to right); Michael Nicholson, Aoibhinn McCloy, Niamh Wogan, Helen Howes, Minister of State Joe O'Brien, WCC Chief Executive Emer O' Gorman, Stephen Matthews TD, Mai Quaid, Michael Conlon, Grainne Quinn, Phyllis Farrel



Wicklow Cathaoirleach, Aoife Flynn Kennedy welcomes delegates to Wicklow



Conference delegates on their trip to Avondale



Members of the Cheile Community Choir at the launch of the Sunbeam House Film Festival and opening of the garden at the Cedar Estate on Kilkenny Road in Bray last week.

Limited edition Young Adult Cards introduced by Library Service

Wicklow County Council Library Service has introduced a limited edition Young Adult library card for patrons aged 12-17. The distinctive and playful card was designed by participants in the Bray Library Comic Clubs alongside comic book artist Elida Maiques. It reflects the creativity, talent and enormous interest in comics, graphic novels and art present in our community.

Children across the county are invited to upgrade their membership to Young Adult once they turn 12, allowing them to access books and DVDs suited to children in 6th class and above. The new limited edition card is a fantastic way of celebrating this transition.

"Reading for pleasure supports resilience, wellbeing and develops empathy which is of great benefit to our whole community," said Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, who added: "This limited edition library card encourages young people to re-engage with the library during adolescence and discover the many resources available to them there."

Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, commented: "This limited edition design encourages children and young people to re-engage with the library service at an age where reading for pleasure often declines. It is vitally important that children and young people in our community have the opportunity to read engaging stories that reflect their lives and the lives of those around them."

To upgrade a Junior library account to Young Adult, it is necessary for a young person's guardian to fill out a Young Adult Membership form. These are available at the desk of every library in Wicklow County Council, and the process should take less than five minutes.

Step into comfort: Discover the Bray Chiropody and Podiatry difference

Are your feet yearning for a little TLC? Look no further! At Bray Chiropody and Podiatry, every step you take leads to absolute comfort and relief. Their team of podiatrists are dedicated to putting the spring back in your step and ensuring your feet feel fantastic.

Why Choose Bray Chiropody and Podiatry?

Expertise You Can Trust: "Our team of podiatrists boasts a wealth of knowledge and a track record of success. From common ailments to complex conditions, we have seen it all, and we're here to guide you towards healthier, happier feet."

Personalized Care: "At Bray Chiropody and Podiatry, we understand that no two feet are alike. For this reason, we offer tailor-made treatment plans designed specifically for you. Whether you are a weekend warrior looking to prevent or treat a lower limb injury, or someone in need of everyday comfort, we have you covered."

Cutting-Edge Technology: "We stay at the forefront of podiatric advancements, employing the latest technologies and techniques to ensure you receive the highest standard of care. Our state-of-the-art facilities are equipped with the most advanced diagnostic and treatment tools available."

Comprehensive Services

*** Foot Pain Relief:** "Bid farewell to nagging foot pain. Our specialists will identify the root cause and provide targeted treatments for swift relief."

*** Custom and Off-the-Shelf Orthotics:** "Experience a bespoke approach to foot support. Our custom-made orthotics are crafted to fit your unique foot structure, ensuring unrivaled comfort. We also have a full range of off-the-shelf devices to support, correct and cushion your feet, as well as thermal insoles to insulate cold feet and cool down hot feet."

*** Sports Injury Management:** "Whether you're a weekend warrior or upcoming marathoners, our sports-focused treatments will get you back in the game."

*** Diabetic Foot Care:** "Our compassionate team understands the unique needs of diabetic patients, providing specialized care to safeguard your foot health."

*** HSE Chiropody Card Service:** "We offer a reduced rate for those with HSE Chiropody

Cards, and are committed to providing the highest possible standard of personalised care for less."

A Holistic Approach to Wellness

"At Bray Chiropody and Podiatry, we believe that healthy feet are the foundation of overall well-being. Our holistic approach encompasses education, prevention, and intervention to promote lifelong foot health. From routine podiatry to therapeutic laser, we're committed to keeping you on your feet and thriving."

Your Journey to Happy, Healthy Feet Starts Here

"Don't let foot discomfort hold you back. Step into a brighter, more comfortable future with Bray Chiropody and Podiatry. Schedule your appointment today and experience the difference expert care can make. Your feet will thank you!"

"Contact us at (01) 2760271, email us on enquiries@braypodiatry.com or visit our website at www.braypodiatry.com to learn more. Your feet deserve the best, and we are here to provide it."



British influencers at Beyond the Trees in Avondale

Influencers spread the word about Wicklow in Great Britain

Tourism Ireland in London invited a group of popular influencers - with a combined following of around 700,00 followers on Instagram - to visit Wicklow and Ireland's Ancient East recently.

The influencers captured lots of great content here, to share with their followers and inspire them to choose Wicklow and Ireland for their next holiday.

The group's itinerary included visits to Powerscourt House and Gardens, Powerscourt Waterfall, Beyond the Trees Avondale and a forest bathing session in Ballygannon Wood with Forest Bathing Wicklow. The influencers enjoyed lunch at the Avoca Terrace Cafe in Powerscourt. They stayed at BrookLodge and enjoyed dinner in The Strawberry Tree Restaurant.

Harris meets Gordon Ramsay and crew in Ashford studios

On Friday 13th October, Minister Simon Harris met Wicklow businesses and famous chef Gordon Ramsay along with his crew who have been working and filming the new season of Next Level Chef in Ashford Studios.

Gordon Ramsay's Next Level Chef has been recording new episodes of an international cooking show in state of the art studios set in the a spectacular location in Ashford.

Next Level Chef is a FOX Entertainment cooking show co-pro-

duced by an Irish independent production company BiggerStage and Studio Ramsay Global.

This new studio development is the biggest unscripted production hub in Ireland. The investment gone into this project is going to create long-term and business

growth as well as create over 300 jobs locally.

In Ashford Studios, Minister Harris said, "The opportunity these studios present for Wicklow-based businesses is unmatched. It was thrilling to be in the studios today to meet the staff and crew producing

the show as well as meeting the famous and world renowned chef Gordon Ramsay.

"I am delighted that FOX Entertainment chose to build their studio set in Ashford. They have invested millions of euros in developing a sustainable, purpose-built and state of the art sound stage which has already finished producing a US hit show and is now set to produce many more.

"This incredible studio will be of great benefit to local businesses who have already been working with the producers and growing their businesses.

"This also presents a great opportunity for Ireland to grow its TV production sector with Wicklow being centre stage.

"On top of this, there is a great opportunity to develop the creative industry in Ireland here and to help drive the skills and talents of young Irish people working in this sector. As Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research Innovation and Science, this is something I am very much looking forward to and will back as much as I can."



Minister Harris with Gordon Ramsay

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Carysfort NS celebrates 200 years of education

The community of Carysfort National School in Arklow was celebrating on Friday October 6th as they marked 200 years of education. The pupils were reminded on the historic day that they were making history and that Carysfort pupils of the future would look back at what they did.

School principal Heather Minion welcomed the pupils and their parents, teachers and staff, as well as some past pupils and teachers who packed the school hall. The pupils set

the tone for the day with their uplifting rendition of 'Thank You Lord' and later 6th Class took centre stage with their ukuleles to perform 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow'.

Throughout the school there were items of interest detailing the school's history. Parents who were past pupils had been interviewed and educational artifacts had been uncovered.

Former teacher Heather Flockhart recited a poem she had written for the occasion and former pupil and parent, John Sutton, read from Ecclesiastes [3: 1-8].

Carysfort's patron, Archbishop Michael Jackson, joined the festivities. He talked about the ABC of school life. A, he said, stood for acceptance and said that everyone had to be accepted at school because otherwise it would not be a happy place. B stood for belonging and he explained that every child

belonged at their school. C stood for community and everybody at the school was part of that community, he said. He thanked the school community for inviting them to share in this moment of living history.

Ms Minion thanked all those who had gone before her for their dedication to Carysfort National School.

Outlining the history of the school she said it was established in 1823 by the Earl of Carysfort. It became a national school in 1908 and the new school opened on the current site in 1974. An extension to the school was opened 10 years ago. The principal paid tribute to the staff and parents' association who helped prepare for

the occasion and the pupils for their work.

"A school is nothing without community and we are blessed with the community we have," she stated.

The whole school community gathered in bright sunshine afterwards to plant a tree to mark the bicentenary.



Carysfort National School 3rd class pupils with their teacher Miss Ivanoff and principal Heather Minion.



Rector of Castlemacadam, the Revd Suzanne Harris, former principals Maud Marshall and Janet Nuzum, current principal Heather Minion and Archbishop Michael Jackson planting a tree to mark the 200th anniversary of Carysfort NS.

Nun's Cross NS fundraising for new playground

Nun's Cross National School in Ashford is fundraising for a new playground. The fundraising page can be found at gofundme.com/f/new-playground-fund.

The fundraising page states: "We have always been blessed with superb outdoor space, which all children who attend Nun's Cross enjoy regularly. It is filled with a wide variety of flora and fauna, and the children enjoy its many nooks and crannies.

"As we embark on our last and final classroom addition to our school, we must sacrifice some of our outdoor space. We are so very grateful to a local landowner who has recently gifted the school half an acre of land, which will easily

replace the green space we are losing and add additional outdoor space to our school. While we are so very grateful for this generous gift, anything we do with it from here on out will be at our own expense - and that is not cheap! We have a very generous and skilled community in our school who have stepped forward with offers of help in many different areas, saving us thousands of euros. However, there is no escaping the fact that we still need to raise cash for materials.

Our first expense is to fence the area so the children can get into our new space and enjoy it as soon as possible. We have funds raised last year by our school community via our fantastic Parents Association, but it is not enough to cover the bill. We are calling on you for financial support to raise the balance. Please spread the word and help us to get the area fenced before the children return to school in late August! We thank you in advance for your support!"



Nun's Cross, Ashford

Pencil bollards installed at St. Kevin's National School

Cllr Stephen Stokes has welcomed the installation of pencil bollards outside St. Kevin's National School, Greystones. The bollards have been installed as part of round one of the Safe Routes to School programme.

Cllr Stokes who is a past pupil of St. Kevin's, believes that enhancing pedestrian and road safety is important. Cllr Stokes added: "The installation of these multi-coloured bollards is warmly welcome. It will enhance the visual awareness of the St. Kevin's school area to motorists. The pencil bollards are eye catching, and will add a nice splash of colour too. The bollards also have reflective strips, which will further assist visual awareness at darker times."

Other measures expected for St. Kevin's N.S include colour contrast road surfacing and distinctive road markings. The installation of the pencil bollards also follows the implementation of 30 kilometre zones around all County Wicklow schools. Cllr Stephen Stokes is supportive of proactive measures.

He added: "I will continue to support any initiative that enhances safety around schools. If these measures protect even one person, then I believe it is a worthwhile exercise. I commend Wicklow County Council for an

excellent job with the installation. Gaelscoil na gCloch Liath, Greystones Educate Together and Temple Carrig School are in line for improvements in round two of Safe Routes to School Programme. I would like to see this programme rolled out to all schools in County Wicklow, but this is an encouraging start."

Pedestrian and cyclist safety is also set to receive significant

investment on the Charlesland Dual Carriageway. Wicklow County Council is planning to invest over €1 million, with special emphasis on improving several roundabout crossings. Cllr Stokes concluded: "We have an increasing population across Charlesland, Delgany, Greystones, Kilcoole, Killadreenan and Newcastle. This will likely result in increased vehicle traffic, so looking at enhanced road safety measures in Charlesland, outside schools, or anywhere else is of benefit to the community."



Cllr Stokes outside St. Kevin's National School

Speed Networking event in Bray a great success

National Learning Network hosted their first Speed Networking event since Covid in their centre on the Boghall Road on Tuesday 17th October. The centre came alive as agencies and individuals from voluntary, statutory, and state-funded sectors gathered for the exciting Speed Networking event.

While many business groups run speed networking events, this is the only event where voluntary and state funded services have had the opportunity to promote the work they do and the service they offer. This event was attended by over 35 people from 30 agencies from the education, community, health and employment sectors in Bray and the wider Wicklow area.

As well as the networking, guests enjoyed two guest speakers: Jean Evans (Networking Architect) a communications professional and networking dynamo specialising in coaching individuals and business in networking and Sean Whooley who is Corporate Affairs Director for AsIAM, Ireland's National Autism Charity. They shared their insights on building trust through networking and tips for successful stakeholder engagement.

National Learning Network's Area Manager Alison Gapert said "The atmosphere on the evening was electric as everybody got into the spirit of the occasion. Business cards and brochures were exchanged and everyone had a 2-minute time slot to speak about their service to all the other attendees. The feedback we got at the end of the event was super, particularly about making new contacts and finding out about new services. They, like us, are really happy that the Speed Networking event is back!"

National Learning Network is a specialist training agency and provides training to people who, for a variety of reasons, may find it difficult to gain employment or go on to mainstream education. They run several types of daytime courses and their phone number is 01 2829643. They have an Open Day every Tuesday, 10.30 to 12.30 in the Centre in Beechwood Close, Boghall Road, Bray

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Storm Pyper-O'Neill at the speed networking event



Brian McSorley, Roseanna Doherty and Shay Hiney at the National Learning Network's Speed Networking event



Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Shay Hiney and Helen Howes at last week's Speed Networking Event at National Learning Network in Bray.



Cllr Melanie Corrigan, Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District, with Jean Evans and Sarah Finnegan at NLN's Speed Networking event last week.

Blessington Educate Together NS win Tidy Towns Award

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore visited Blessington Educate Together National School recently to congratulate them on receiving the inaugural SuperValu National Schools Award at the Tidy Towns Awards ceremony, held in Croke Park earlier this month.

"This is a huge achievement for the children, teachers, and school community here in Blessington Educate Together," said Deputy Whitmore. "I am delighted to be able to visit them in person and congratulate them today on winning this National award for their role in the Edible Blessington Project."

Blessington Educate Together were the pilot school for Edible Blessington, a community-led project run by Donal McCormack from the Blessington Allotments Campaign. The aim of this project was to provide local schools with edible, pollinator-friendly plants, and trees for each student so that they could learn first-hand where food comes from and the enjoyment of growing it. After the initial success at Blessington Educate Together the project was expanded, with

the support of Blessington Tidy Towns, to include the other four Primary Schools in Blessington and provided every child attending a Primary School in the town with their very own strawberry plant.

"It is wonderful to see community groups and schools working together in our towns and villages and helping younger generations take part in community climate actions like growing your own food. Projects like this one help start conversations with our children about where our food comes from. I really enjoyed talking to the children at Blessington Educate Together and listening to them speak proudly about their school garden," added Ms Whitmore, who is the Climate spokesperson for the Social Democrats.

"We have a very strong sense of community here in Blessington and we are very proud of what our schools, the Blessington Allotments Campaign and the Blessington Tidy Towns have achieved with this joint project. I am delighted that all their hard work has been recognised nationally with this award," commented Deirdre McCormack, Social Democrats Local Area Rep for West Wicklow.

"Wicklow communities were very successful at the Tidy Towns Awards this year and they all did us proud. I would like to thank all the Tidy Towns volunteers across the county who are out week after week looking after our towns and villages, organising community projects and making Wicklow a wonderful place to live," concluded Deputy Whitmore.



Jennifer Whitmore TD, Jonathan Kinsella, Principal of Blessington Educate Together NS, and Social Democrats Local Area Representative for West Wicklow Deirdre McCormack



Wicklow's Hannah O'Neill with her winning design

Wicklow teen crowned overall winner in charity calendar competition

With less than one month to go until The Hereford 2024 Charity Calendar goes on sale, the people have spoken and this year's featured artists have been chosen! Despite a wealth of entries coming in from budding photographers and artists to this Charity Photo and Calendar Competition, in association with Irish Hereford Prime and the Irish Hereford Breed Society, eight clear winners emerged triumphant.

The coveted title of Overall Winner was awarded to a talented young lady from Co. Wicklow. 15-year-old Hannah O'Neill showcased her potential as a true budding artist with her beautiful drawing of a Hereford calf entitled 'Cute as a Button'. The winning piece of art was entered by Hannah into the Creative Calves category; a new category for 2023 which was open to children and teenagers aged 16 and under who were encouraged to tap into their artistic abilities by putting forward a drawing, painting or sketch inspired by Hereford calves.

The judging process for this photo competition was twofold; public vote and independent judging panel. Entries were showcased on the Irish Hereford Breed Society's Facebook page, with the four category winners being chosen by public vote. Once the category winners were selected, it was then over to the judges to crown an overall winner.

After first being shortlisted by the public, Hannah's drawing was then selected by the panel of judges as the standout image of the competition. Aside from scooping an impressive €500



Hannah O'Neill's winning artwork - 'Cute as a Button'

prize, the Wicklow teen will also see her winning portrait featured in the 2024 Hereford charity calendar.

The calendar - which will this year raise vital funds for the Children's Health Foundation Ireland at Crumlin - will also feature winning sub-

missions from the other three competition categories that were open to promising photographers of all ages and at any skill level: Herefords - The Natural Choice; The HEX Factor; and Hereford: An Environmentally Sustainable Breed. These categories called

for entrants to submit an image of a Hereford animal in their natural environment, or a shot of a Hereford farmer hard at work. Two triumphant entries were selected from each of these categories and awarded first and second place.

The 2024 Hereford Charity Calendar goes on sale on 1st November. Each calendar sold will mean more funds to help hundreds of sick children and their families daily at Children's Health Ireland at Crumlin.

Commenting ahead of the calendar's launch, Corporate Manager at the Children's Health Foundation, Liam Redmond said: "As the charity partner for this year's Hereford calendar, we were thrilled with the response to the competition and really taken aback by the standard of not only the winning entries, but the submissions across the board! With so much talent on show in this fabulous calendar, it will make a wonderful gift and one that will also hold great meaning for the sick children in Children's Health Ireland at Crumlin. We hope that people will get behind it to support the winners involved and also our patients and their families."

Harris opens 'Cows in the Hood' in Signal Arts Centre

Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris recently opened the 'Cows in the Hood' art exhibition by local Kilcoole artist Kelly Hood in the Bray Signal Arts Centre.

Speaking at the event, Minister Harris said, "It is an honour to be able to officially open the 'Cows in the Hood' art exhibition and to pay tribute to the brilliant and award winning, Kelly Hood who we are so proud lives with us here in Wicklow."

"It is great to see the work of such a talented local artist on show here in Bray and to see so many people there for the opening. I have to say I am truly blown away by the incredible effort, time and commitment that

Kelly has clearly put into all of her work."

"The contributions of local artists and local art to our community cannot be overstated, and I am always grateful when artists choose to share their passion and dedication for everyone to enjoy."

While Ireland has had its fair share of sacred cows in recent times, the spiritual nature of cattle and their aesthetic beauty is now captured on canvas in a unique solo show by artist Kelly Hood. In

this show she draws out the individual characteristics of her bovine subjects to humorous, affectionate and dramatic effect.

Hood investigates; The Good and the Bad & Ugly behind 'Selfie' Culture. 'Selfie' is defined as a photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically taken with a smartphone and shared via social media.

Opinions surrounding selfies have always been divided. Some believe that taking selfies can be

harmful as it could promote narcissism, unrealistic physical expectations, and eventual comparisons. Others believe that selfies can empower, as we are able to freely express ourselves.

"I decided to explore this phenomenon further and invited the herd on a Tour of Ireland. Inviting them to 'mooselfie,' says Kelly.

Kelly Hood grew up on Granny Mae's farm on the rugged Dingle peninsula, wandering through fields and playing with the animals. Her collections, called Born Wild and Born Mucky, feature photo-realistic farmyard and wild animals, from cows and sheep to foxes and hares, with a very natural and tactile appearance that perfectly captures Irish farm and country life.

Kelly also uses natural pigments for a sustainable art practice, and a percentage of all Kelly's sales goes to animal welfare charities. Her charming contemporary work is sold online too, at www.kellyhood.com, and Kelly is represented in galleries countrywide. Commissions for original paintings are also accepted.



Sheep II, by Kelly Hood



Minister Simon Harris with Kilcoole artist Kelly Hood at her recent exhibition in the Signal Arts Centre

New playground and plans for clubhouse and pitches at Kilbride GAA

Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris TD recently met with Kilbride GAA to discuss their developments plans in the village and how Government funding through the Leader grant and sports capital grants has helped deliver new facilities

Minister Harris said, "I really want to congratulate everyone in Kilbride GAA for their incredible work and progress, including all the committee and particularly Diarmuid Haughian. I have been working with this club for sometime and it is great to see the new playground now open and the walking track and lights installed.

"I am really excited about their plans for the future including the development of a club house and new pitches and I will work with them closely to make progress on this.

"These new facilities are injecting new life into this brilliant community and is making a major difference to the wellbeing of the area. I am so proud of all that has been achieved and really looking forward to the next steps."



Minister Simon Harris TD with Diarmuid Haughian of Kilbride GAA



Minister Simon Harris TD with members of Kilbride GAA in their on-site coffee shop



The 5th of October saw teams take to the field in Bray Emmets for the first camogie blitz of the year. Schools represented included Scoil Chualann (pictured), Gaelscoil na gCloch Liath, Greystones Educate Together, St. Fergal's, St. Laurence's, St. Brigid's, Gaelscoil Uí Chéadaigh and St. Joseph's. Well done to the girls for a great day of skills and sport.



Olivia Connell, Roisin Vigors and Doireann Hurley rehearsing for the Adams family at St. Mary's College in Arklow.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Permission is sought for the Change of Use of part of Unit 14, (82.68 m²) from Retail to Dental Clinic comprising the subdivision of the existing Unit 14 by erecting a cross wall at 14 m from the front elevation and for the replacement of the existing entrance doors with new doors in matching style and colour, replacement signage and the erection of internal partitions to form 2 no. dental booths supported by ancillary accommodation at Unit 14, Egans Business Centre, Upper Dargle Road, Bray, Co Wicklow for Ligia McGill.

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

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, Hannah Leggett and Eamonn Fox seek planning permission for the provision of 2.No new single storey extensions with mono pitch roofs, to the front and rear of the existing single storey pitched roof dwelling, along with associated drainage works. Replacement of the existing roof light on the front roof slope of the dwelling with a new roof light design at Cherry Lawn Cottage, Killarney Road, Bray, Co.Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, Irish Prison Service, seek Planning Permission for development consisting of the installation of circa. 3,492sq.m array of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels on ground mounted frames on an agricultural plot within the existing Shelton Abbey Open Prison complex, together with ducting, underground electrical cabling, and all associated site works. 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

Elaine Kennedy & Steven Culligan seek planning permission for: Attic Conversion including new roof lights to front and rear roof slopes along with new window in existing gable wall at 10 Archers Wood Drive, Delgany, Co. Wicklow. A63HE40

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

Brian and Emma Larkin seek planning permission for: Conversion of Existing Attic Space including introduction of roof lights to front and rear roof slopes along with frosted window in gable wall to existing dwelling at 15 Eastmount Woods, Chapel Road, Delgany, Co. Wicklow A63 R7W6

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.

ATTENTION
Architects, Planners & Builders

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Citroën ë-C3 - the first European affordable electric car

One of the biggest obstacles to electric car adoption is the price - with VW Golf sized electric cars often costing more than €50K. It's just too much Citroën now challenges the rulebook for European-designed and built B-segment cars with the unveiling of the characterful fourth generation C3.

By Martin McCarthy

The electric version, with a 320 km range has a recommended retail price here of €23,300. The all-electric ë-C3 delivers



The Citroën ë-C3

best-in-class comfort, an easy electric experience, outstanding level of equipment and incredible value for money while being

made in Europe.

Selling more than 5.6 million units since the launch of the first generation in 2002, the C3 is the

brand's most popular model and represents 29 percent of Citroën's European sales volume. In 2022, the C3 captured 11 percent overall of the European B-segment market. Reinventing itself to aggressively meet the challenges of making all-electric mobility accessible to all at a net, fair and affordable price, the all

new ë-C3 signals a new chapter for Citroën.

It is the first all-electric B-segment to be offered in the region by a European manufacturer, at this price level, designed in Europe and will be manufactured in Europe at the Stellantis Trnava manufacturing plant in Slovakia.

The range of 320km is ideal for folks with a con-

sistent fairly short daily commute, say from Bray to Arklow. It avoids the huge weight penalty of carrying around a monster battery pack in pursuit of 500+km range - and makes the driving experience much more comfortable.

It could be the game-changer that electric motoring in Ireland needs

RECRUITMENT



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Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to form a panel from which future temporary positions may be filled.

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THURSDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 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

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

Wicklow County Council is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

Lorraine Gallagher,
Director Of Services,
Enterprise & Corporate Services,
Wicklow County Council,
County Buildings,
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This post is funded by the Department of Justice and Equality and by the European Social Fund 2014 – 2020 and Dormant Accounts funding through the Irish Youth Justice Service, in conjunction with An Garda Síochána and will be managed by Foróige. Working in a YDP, regardless of the role, will allow you to take a journey with young people and families, who are often the most marginalized and disadvantaged. Many have faced great obstacles, tragedy and adversity in their lives, yet are inspiring in their ability to cope, bounce back and often flourish, once given the appropriate opportunities and supports.

The successful candidate will work with young people in one of our many locations.

To learn more and apply now visit: www.foroige.ie/careers

Deadline: 12pm 26th of October 2023



Foróige is committed to a policy of Equality of Opportunity in its employment practices.

The Talbot Group, are leading providers of adult and children's intellectual disability services in North County Dublin, Meath, Louth, Cavan, Kildare and Wicklow. We are now expanding our services in Wicklow. To support our new Community Disability Services in Wicklow Town, we are currently recruiting for

SOCIAL CARE WORKERS

If you are a Social Care Worker and would like to work with the Talbot Group and make a difference to the lives of our residents, please come along to our **Walk-in Interview Day in Tinakilly Country House, Tinakilly, Rathnew, Wicklow on Thursday 26th October 2023 anytime between 10.30am – 2.30 pm.** Please bring an up to date copy of your CV with you.

Email elaine@talbotgroup.ie for further details or visit talbotgroup.ie. You can also find us on Instagram, LinkedIn and Facebook.

Positive response to National Women's Enterprise Day

National Women's Enterprise Day (NWED) 2023 was marked in style on Thursday 19th October at Powerscourt House, Enniskerry, when over 100 female business owners gathered to mark the event.

The theme of the event - organised by the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Wicklow and funded by the Government of Ireland in partnership with Enterprise Ireland and Local Authorities - was 'Empowering Business Together'.

Vibeke Delahunt, Head of Enterprise at LEO Wicklow, opened proceedings and introduced Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, and Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, who both spoke about their support for women in business in the county.

MC Lisa Cunningham facilitated a lively Q&A session, after the guest speakers Anna Daly and Elaine Geraghty spoke, telling their stories of business and working life.

Anna Daly, award-winning TV presenter and founder of clothing company 'Little Bliss', gave practical and inspirational advice on

starting a growing a business. Anna, a Greystones resident, also described juggling life and work with three young boys.

Elaine Geraghty, Managing Director of Ardmore Film & TV Studios and formerly Chief Executive of Newstalk, gave a fascinating account of her long and varied career and how she made it to the top. A broad range of industries were represented at the event: from financial services to coaching, fashion and styling to retail. The stunning ballroom at Powerscourt House was packed and buzzing with enthusiasm and positivity, and the standing ovation after the guest speakers' presentations finished the day on a high note.

Speaking at the event, Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, welcomed those present to the 16th National Women's Enterprise Day, and said that NWED "allows those

who may not have thought of entrepreneurship to consider it. If you can see it, you can be it."

Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, reminded those present that "this National Women's Enterprise Day is also an opportunity to highlight the incredible supports available through the LEO to help start and grow your businesses. The journey of entrepreneurship can be challenging, and the Local Enterprise Office Wicklow can provide local businesses with the essential tools and resources needed to thrive."

The supports for women (and men) in business provided by LEO Wicklow were also highlighted. Information on how to interact with LEO Wicklow for those at pre-start, start-up or growth phases in their business can be found on www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow or by phoning the LEO Team on 0404 30800.



The LEO Wicklow team marking National Women's Enterprise Day



Front row (L-R): Elaine Geraghty, Managing Director of Ardmore Film & TV Studios, Bray; Anna Daly, broadcaster and founder of Little Bliss clothing company; Lisa Cunningham, MC, owner of Vogue Business Development, Co Wicklow. Back row (L-R): Cllr Aoife Flynn-kennedy, Cathaoirleach, Wicklow County Council; Vibeke Delahunt, Head of Enterprise, LEO Wicklow; Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council.

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