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Tuesday 14th November 2023 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND WELCOMES

There is growing disquiet over the number of immigrants Ireland seems to be attracting and our ability as a nation to financially sustain the ever-increasing numbers arriving daily. It is estimated that we will be hosting 100,000 by year end.

In County Wicklow locals are complaining that they are experiencing difficulties getting appointments with doctors as all Ukrainians are granted a medical card and full social welfare payments on arrival. Another aspect of the situation is that restaurants and pubs are closing due to a lack of tourists as most hotels are accommodating refugees on a full-time basis.

Ireland pays for accommodation for 77% of Ukrainians compared to countries such as Poland which

only pays for 5%.

In County Wicklow this cost is staggering, some examples are: the Grand Hotel in Wicklow Town is being paid €700,000 per month, Bray Manor Nursing Home is paid €133,000 per month, Ferrybank Arklow €90,000 per month, Kippure in Blessington receives €613,000 per month, the Royal Hotel Bray have a 3-year deal for €22 million or €5000 per room per month. However, these figures pale into insignificance when compared to Moran's Red

Cow who the Government are paying €2.2 million per month.

Commenting, Independent councillor Joe Behan said "The outstanding support given to the people arriving into Ireland and Co Wicklow as refugees is a credit to all concerned. Families have welcomed refugees into their own homes, schools have accommodated large numbers of students and many hotel rooms have been utilised in the accommodation of thousands of new arrivals. "Our own history of emigration has no



Arthur Kinsella and Jake O'Neill, second class pupils in St. Saviour's School, Rathdrum are pictured collecting acorns in Ballygannon Woods. The Nature Trust welcomed volunteers and members of the community to the acorn and seed collecting event. Pic: Joe Ladrikan. See page 6

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doubt encouraged us to be an 'Ireland of the Welcomes' and the Irish people can be proud of the warm reception they have given so many people forced to leave their home countries.

"However, it seems to me that there are genuine questions to be asked about how many more new arrivals we can accommodate in the coming months and years. The recent leaks from Government indicate that even Ministers realise there is a limit to what we can do in the future and both the Taoiseach and Tanaiste have not denied that the topic is being actively discussed in Government. There is a natural inclination to avoid this discussion as no one with an ounce of compassion would want to turn away

the refugee genuinely fleeing war.

"However, it is increasingly being discussed by community minded people all across the country and we need to face up to it. If we can't have an honest and open discussion about this, there are forces which will exploit people's genuine concerns for self-serving reasons.

"The recent revelation about the enormous amounts of public money being spent on renting hotel rooms in County Wicklow and across the country is a major concern. It appears that many hotels are now effectively closed to the general public and their contribution to the tourist and hospitality trade is being lost for possibly a very long time.

Continued on page 3

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Members of the Wicklow County camogie team at the Nancy Murray Cup presentation evening in the Arklow Bay Hotel. The Wicklow Camogie team were crowned winners of the All-Ireland Nancy Murray cup this year.

The impact of the 1918-1919 flu epidemic

Wicklow Town Branch Library, The Mall, Main Street, Wicklow Town, will host the second of its monthly local history lectures at 7 p.m. on Thursday November 16th at which Rosemary Raughter will present 'The dread illness, the impact of the 1918-1919 influenza epidemic in County Wicklow'. All are welcome - admission is free but booking is required - contact Wicklow Library on 0404-67025 or email wicklowlocalstudies@wicklowcoco.ie to book your place.

Wicklow Library events

Upcoming events in Wicklow Town Library include a fun drama workshop for the whole family (Saturday 18th November, 2:30-3:30pm). ; Chair Yoga with Louise for adults (Tuesday 21st & 28th November, 2-3pm); Film Club - The Quiet Girl (Wednesday 22nd November, 7pm). Sign up at the desk, call 0404-67025 or email wicklib@wicklowcoco.ie.

Bray Cualann Historical Society

Vincent Delaney will present 'Bray Town, The Sailing Club and the Droleen Dinghy' at 8 p.m. on Thursday November 16th in the Royal Hotel, Main Street, Bray. All are welcome - admission is €8 for non-members.

Wicklow Town Lights

On Sunday, 19th November at 4pm, everyone is invited to take a stroll down Wicklow Town's main street for the annual Santa Parade and turning on of the Christmas lights. With a special appearance from Santa Claus and performances from Wicklow band Déjà Vu, it promises to be a treat filled family event. To ensure crowd safety, road closures (Main Street) will take effect from 3.30pm until 6pm - please leave sufficient time to park and walk to the Santa Parade. Children must be accompanied by a parent/guardians at all times.

Soup and Sandwiches

The next Soup and Sandwich Lunch which will be held in The Swann Hall, St. Patrick's Church, Greystones on Tuesday, 21st November from 12.30 until 2.00. Do come and join in the fellowship and chat while enjoying a delicious lunch. Suggested donation of €7 for charity.

Mermaid Tales in Laragh

Wicklow Arts Office & Mermaid Arts Centre Present Mermaid Tales. Mermaid Arts Centre, with the support of Wicklow Arts Office, is delighted to bring an evening of storytelling and song to the beautiful setting of Lynham's of Laragh on Thursday 23rd of November at 8pm. Featuring Colum Sands, Eimear Burke and Jack Lynch. All welcome, no need to book.

Greystones Lights

The Christmas Lights in Greystones will be switched on on 18th November. There will be a great day of activities which will also include Santa's Parade, Plaza Market and a stage show in Burnaby Park. The market will take place every Saturday and Sunday until 23rd December, from 11:30am to 5:30pm.

Meeting for bereaved parents

Anam Cara's monthly meeting for bereaved parents will be held on Monday, 20th November in the Parkview Hotel in Newtownmountkennedy, 7:30pm to 9pm. 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 in a safe and comfortable place with people who understand the milestones and challenges of grief and loss. The evening is free and open to all bereaved parents.

Diwali success in Greystones

Diwali celebrations took place in Greystones Rugby Club on Saturday, November 24th. Diwali is the biggest festival in India each year. It symbolises the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. With a growing Indian community in Greystones and Ireland, the event was again sold out.

Amongst the guests invited was Cllr Stephen Stokes. Leas Cathaoirleach of the Greystones Municipal District, who praised the organisers. Cllr Stokes stated: "It was another successful night for Diwali in Greystones. The organisers did a superb job. There was such a great variety of entertainment. This included competitions, performances and even some Irish dancing. The performers deserve great credit too."

The attendees were well looked after on the night with an array of food options. Cllr Stephen Stokes concluded: "It was nice to see a mix of attendees, of all ages. It's an inclusive event that brings people of all generations together. I would like to wish everyone associated with Diwali the very best of success for many years to come."



Cllr Stephen Stokes with Diwali organisers

Birdwatch Ireland Wicklow events

Tuesday 14th, Indoor Talk, 7.30pm at Ashford Heritage Centre

Indoor Talk - 'How the Fair Seas project can save our Seabirds' presented by BWI's Marine Policy and Advocacy Officer, Rosalind Skillen.

Saturday, November 18th, Bird Ringing Demonstration

Eddie Hellewell and his BirdWatch Ireland colleagues will host a Bird Ringing Demonstration at the East Coast Nature Reserve, Sea Road, Newcastle at 11am. This is a great opportunity for young and not-so-young to get up close and personal with some of our bird species. You will also learn how ringing helps our ornithologists to make more informed policy decisions that will help these birds.

Saturday 25th, Outing to Cahore, Co. Wexford

Outing to Cahore to look for Whooper swans, Greylag Geese, Golden Plover, Black-tailed Godwits and other winter visitors. Meet at Ballinoulart Bay Beach carpark, Co. Wexford at 10am see Google Pin.



Alison Behan, Rachel Cole, Mary Hickey Nolan, Paula Kinsella, Sharon Wheeler, Michelle Geoghegan, Dinny Kenny, Fiona Byrne, Elaine Hughes, Eugene Doherty and Jean Molloy of the Trail Trotters Arklow who completed the Dublin City Marathon.

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Funding concerns for Wicklow ECCE providers

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has spoken on the recent developments in Core Funding for Services for Early Years Education. Deputy Whitmore made the comments following some meetings with childcare providers across Wicklow and in response to emails she had been receiving from providers on the same issue over recent weeks.



Jennifer Whitmore TD

Deputy Whitmore said: "Over the last couple of years, Government has developed a new funding model for the early years and childcare sector that was intended to reduce the burden of costs on parents and address the issues around pay and conditions for staff. It was a more targeted approach that was to enable providers to attract higher levels of funding given higher staffing requirements determined on the regulatory ratios for care for babies and toddlers.

"While efforts to reduce costs for parents, and to improve staff conditions, are to be welcomed, I believe that there have been unintended consequences from this policy change that need to be examined and addressed. The feedback I have been receiving from providers is that this 'one-size fits all' model is causing significant difficulties for those small, sessional ECCE providers, who already operate on a shoestring. These are providers that are operated and owned by one or two individuals,

and only have a small number of children, for whom they provide a morning ECCE service. In particular, the high administrative burden placed on these very small operators is putting them under great stress, and may result in some of the smaller services having to reconsider whether they can continue to operate.

"Parents want choice when it comes to their childcare and early education options. Each child and family is different and has different needs. The unintended consequence of this policy change may mean that we see less and less of the small providers, which I feel would be a huge loss to the sector. As a parent, I wanted a small, family-like ECCE for my children. Unfortunately, this may not be as available an option going forward for parents, unless government rethink their approach. I will bring these concerns to the Minister and the Department of Children in the hope that they will address the key issues as expressed to me by Wicklow's providers."



Wicklow Camogie players Sarah Lambe, Holly Arthur, Aoife Connolly, Shauna O'Shea and Hannah Doyle at the Nancy Murray Cup presentation evening in the Arklow Bay Hotel.

'Daft' Ukrainian project for Annamoe abandoned

The proposed building of a village of huts on the side of a mountain in Annamoe to house upwards of a thousand Ukrainians has been abandoned.

Local resident Senator Pat Casey said "I am delighted that common sense has prevailed and that the proposal to place 950 vulnerable human beings fleeing war in Ukraine in a rural field in the Wicklow Mountains has been abandoned. This proposal was totally unacceptable from both the perspective of the best humanitarian care and integration that is due for the families fleeing the war and the capacity of the local community to welcome and integrate our fellow Europeans.

"I really hope the Government learns lessons from this and communicates in with local communities. Communities in every part of Wicklow are welcoming and integrating Ukrainian people but they need to be consulted as to how many can be suitably accommodated. This Annamoe project was a daft idea from day one and I thank the community of the area in their understanding and patience while we dealt with the Department and the owners of the Estate."

ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND WELCOMES

Continued from page 1

"There is evidence that some of the remaining hotels would appear to be cashing in on the resulting scarcity of hotel accommodation by raising their prices to exorbitant levels. The absence of so many hotels from the public square has a deadening effect on many town centres and will no doubt result in job losses eventually.

"In my work as a public representative, I have advocated for constituents seeking carer's allowances, emergency needs payments and social welfare pensions and I have been appalled at the barriers put in the way of some of these deserving constituents in accessing benefits to which they are entitled. It is therefore understandable when the same social welfare system seems to have a more generous approach to newly arrived people that questions are asked as to why. In my view, every applicant is entitled to be considered sympathetically and fairly and any deviation from this policy is bound to cause legitimate concerns.

"Government Ministers have a duty to face up to these issues as a matter of urgency because failure to do so could lead to a hardening of attitudes in this country with consequences which none of us would want to see."

Sinn Féin TD John Brady said "We are now in situation where the conflict in Ukraine is in all probability going to continue for some time to come, potentially for years. And unfortunately, for the Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTPs) arriving in Ireland, and those who have been forced to seek International Protection here, we are in the midst of an unprecedented housing crisis.

"And while our initial humanitarian driven response was laudable and necessary, we are now faced with a conflict with no end date, and a continuing obligation to provide a safe haven for BOTPs. The issue of sustainability has now arisen. The fact is that we are legally, and morally obliged to continue to provide Temporary Protection to those fleeing the war, but the current approach as is being employed by the government is not sustainable.

"I am cautious about making comparisons about what is being done here versus other states without having access to the full information. It is the responsibility of the Government to conduct a proper analysis of available resources versus current and future requirements, measured against international norms and to develop a plan for a more sustainable response.

"In terms of the attractiveness of what is on offer in the State for BOTPs, it is something that is certainly attractive to certain private contractors and accommodation providers who have been allowed by the government to make ridiculous money out of the crisis. The Government strategy for BOTPs has led to an over reliance on private accommodation such as hotels, which has undoubtedly had an impact on tourism. This is very clear in Wicklow when we see some of the hotels which are unavailable to tourists as they are being used to accommodate BOTPs.

"There is a clear onus on the government to provide a response to the impact on tourism which is focussed on bringing benefit to the whole of the affected communities."

Commenting, Minister Simon Harris said "I am really proud of the record of this country in supporting Ukraine. People have opened their homes and their hearts to this really difficult humanitarian situation. As we now move from the immediate emergency phase to a more sustainable response, it is very clear that we will have to examine how we best support people to ensure that it remains sustainable. We also need to work closely with communities from a tourism perspective to support them."



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028 VARIATION NO. 1



Notice is hereby given that Variation No. 1 (Rathdrum Town Plan) to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 was made by Wicklow County Council on 06 November 2023, pursuant to Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

VARIATION NO. 1

Rezone 0.81ha of land at Ballygannon, Rathdrum, from 'RN – New Residential' to 'OS2 – Passive Open Space' and amend the written text of the Rathdrum Town Plan to reflect the changes consequent from the rezoning.

This variation is accompanied by a Strategic Environmental Assessment screening and determination prepared in accordance with the Planning & Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (as amended). The variation is also accompanied by a Habitats (Appropriate) Assessment screening determination pursuant to Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive. It has been determined that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required for the variation.

In accordance with Section 13 (11) of the Act this variation shall have effect from 06 November 2023.

A copy of the made variation and associated documents, and the updated County Development Plan, will be available for viewing and downloading on the Council website www.wicklow.ie (scan the QR code here) and for inspection, at Wicklow County Council, County Buildings and all Municipal District Offices, during normal opening hours.

Wicklow County Council is committed to Access For All. All of the above documents are available in alternative format on request. Please contact Wicklow County Council on 0404-20100 should you have any specific access requirements.

Wicklow Fire Service adds hand-size defibrillators to cardiac care kit



Wicklow Fire Service members, Station Officer, Ross Lally (left) and Assistant Chief Officer Ryan Lally holding the new lightweight hand-size defibrillators that are being supplied to all fire units throughout County Wicklow

Mindful of how vital a rapid response can be in instances of sudden cardiac arrest, Wicklow Fire Service has become the first in Ireland to equip its crews with new lightweight Australian-made hand-size defibrillators.

Designed for use as a stand-alone automatic external defibrillator especially in circumstances where medical care or a conventional defibrillator are not immediately to-hand, units are small enough to fit inside their dedicated mountain backpack or in the pocket of their protective fire-fighting clothing.

Being supplied to all stations within the county, their purpose is to give firefighters back-up advantage when assisting a casualty in remote and challenging circumstances where split-second attention is required.

Another purpose is the safety and protection of crew members who may be overcome whilst working in remote and mountainous surroundings, away from their tender and main emergency kit.

New to Ireland, the units are being marketed under the brand name 'CellADE' by specialist medical suppliers, Hibernian Healthcare. Costing €370 at retail price, the single-use units have a two-year shelf life and can be used on adults and children.



Wicklow Fire Service member, Station Officer Ross Lally, shows how close-to-hand their new 'pocket-size lifesaver' can be when needed

Council Chief Executive launches Staff Wellbeing Strategy

The Wellbeing Strategy sets out the vision and aims for Council employees wellbeing across the four key pillars: Mental Wellbeing, Physical Wellbeing, Social Wellbeing and Financial Wellbeing.

The Strategy flows from the National Framework for Healthy Workplaces which sets out the strategic direction for workplace policies and programmes to enhance the health of workers. It also aligns with the Council's People Strategy objective to develop a health and wellness framework.

Traditionally, the local government sector has always been active in this area, providing wellbeing initiatives either through its own corporate programmes or via Health and Safety sections.

The Strategy also recognises that positive wellbeing does not start and end in the workplace;

however, with the provision of the right supports it will empower staff to make informed choices about their own wellbeing.

In launching the Strategy, Chief Executive Emer O'Gorman, said: "Our wellbeing aims are to create a safe and healthy work environment which fosters a culture of positive wellbeing, improve the general wellbeing of our workforce and embed wellbeing as a central part of our strategic priorities for management across all functions and ensure awareness of statutory obligations. I would like to pay tribute to council staff across the districts who work hard to provide a diverse range of ser-

vices to the communities of County Wicklow and I look forward to the implementation of the initiatives that will flow from the Strategy."

Cathaoirleach, Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, added: "The events of the last two years have raised awareness levels of the importance of wellbeing, for ourselves and those around us and I am delighted to be here to support the launch of the Council's Staff Wellbeing Strategy."

To achieve the objectives set out within the Strategy a working group has been established under the four key Pillars of Mental, Physical Social and Wellbeing, the group will work towards embedding health and wellbeing across all Council functions so that positive wellbeing becomes part of the culture in Wicklow County Council.



Gemma Whitty, Michael Kelly, Lorraine Dunne, Denise Kinsella, Lorraine Gallagher, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Emer O'Gorman, Aoife Cashman, Michael Nicholson and Leonora Earls at the launch of the Council's Wellbeing Strategy.

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

Funding for new computers, laptops and iPads in libraries

Extra funding totalling €13,808 is to be provided to Wicklow's libraries to for new computers, laptops, iPads and other ICT equipment. This funding, provided by Minister Heather Humphreys, will benefit six libraries in Co. Wicklow.

Communities across the country are set to benefit from the initiative - with a particular focus on supporting young people, our elderly and our disadvantaged.

Speaking last week, Minister Simon Harris said "I am delighted to announce that Wicklow's libraries are set to receive extra funding for new computers, laptops and other ICT equipment."

"Our libraries provide vital supports to local residents, especially those coming from disadvantaged communities. It is fantastic that under today's announcement, funding has been secured for the Arklow, Ballywaltrim, Bray, Blessington, Greystones and Wicklow libraries."

"I look forward to seeing this new equipment put into use and serving our communities to help further develop digital skills and access online Government services."

Minister Harris thanked Minister Humphreys for her leadership in ensuring everyone has access to vital digital support.



Wicklow Library

Community-led seed collection helps to boost Ballygannon Wood restoration

The Nature Trust, an Irish not-for-profit dedicated to planting new open-access woodlands and restoring natural habitats at scale across Ireland, welcomed more than 100 volunteers and members of the community to a series of acorn and seed collecting events held in two scenic locations across Ireland last week. Volunteers collected over 150kg of acorns across the three days which will help grow approximately 15,000 oak saplings to create new native woodlands around Ireland.



Ciaran Fallon, Director of the Nature Trust, and Declan Little Ecologist pictured collecting acorns in Ballygannon Woods, Rathdrum. Pic: Naoise Culhane

The events, which took place in Ballygannon Wood in Rathdrum, and Hazelwood in Sligo featured informative talks about the essential role of acorns and seeds in supporting Ireland's native woodlands and biodiversity efforts. Attendees had the opportunity to engage with experts, learn about the importance of seed collection, and actively participate in acorn and seed gathering at each location.

Ciaran Fallon, Managing Director of The Nature Trust, expressed his gratitude for the overwhelming community support, saying, "We are thrilled with the turnout and commitment of our volunteers at each of the events. The success of this collection underscores our shared dedication to safeguarding our natural heritage for future generations."

Dr. Declan Little, a native woodland special-



Liam McEvoy, a second class pupil in St. Saviour's School, Rathdrum is pictured collecting acorns in Ballygannon Woods. Pic: Joe Ladrigan

ist and registered seed collector working with The Nature Trust, echoed this sentiment, stating, "It's heartening to see so many people actively involved in preserving our native woodlands. These collected acorns and seeds are invaluable to our ongoing efforts to propagate native species for our woodlands of the future."

The acorns and seeds from each event will now undergo a careful nurturing process at Irish nurseries for two to three years, ensuring their successful propagation before being planted in native woodlands in the future.

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Approval granted for SETU to purchase Waterford Crystal site

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris TD has granted approval for the South East Technological University to conclude the purchase of the Waterford Crystal site in Waterford.

SETU will now sign final contracts to purchase 20.3 acres of the 37-acre Waterford Crystal site.

Speaking about the conclusion of the acquisition process, Minister Harris said: "This is a major moment for the development of the South East Technological University

"We know this is an iconic site, which has been derelict for almost 15 years. Today, it becomes part of the SETU footprint in Co Waterford.

"We know the history of the site but the future is now certain too. The Crystal site is no more. This is now another part of the SETU campus."

The purchase of this site satisfies a number of wider local and regional objectives through the reusing/repurposing of a prominent brownfield site in the city.

"This investment will allow SETU to cater for future student growth, address the current shortfall in space requirements and allow the Technological University to be a driver of economic and

social development in Waterford."

Dr Alan Wall, CEO of the Higher Education Authority, said: "The purchase of the Waterford Crystal site in Waterford is a significant moment in the history of SETU and a major milestone in the proposed expansion of the Waterford Campus.

"The HEA and SETU have been working closely to ensure the conclusion of the acquisition of this iconic site. This strategic purchase will address a number of local and regional objectives and will facilitate future student growth for SETU.

"With the assistance of the HEA, SETU will proceed to develop a Business Case for the development of the proposed site under our Technological Sector Strategic Projects Fund (TSSPF)."

President of SETU Professor Veronica Campbell warmly welcomed the announcement.

Professor Campbell said: "SETU is delighted to secure ministerial approval to move swiftly ahead with the purchase of the former Waterford Crystal site and we look forward to signing contracts within the fortnight.

"I would like to thank Minister Harris for his ongoing support and enthusiasm for this project and I look forward to his further engagement on the reimagining of this iconic site."

Minister Simon Harris

'We're on the verge of losing The Murrough'

Councillors have stressed the urgency of combating the severe erosion taking place at The Murrough, which is having a devastating impact and has been exacerbated by recent storms.

At last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Paul O'Brien called for a suspension of standing orders so that the destruction and deterioration of The Murrough could be discussed. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Gail Dunne.

"This is not politics for us. This is personal," said Cllr O'Brien. "Both mine and Cllr Dunne's families hail from The Murrough, so what we speak here today, we speak from the heart."

"We have had a parade of ministers, MEPs, TDs down for the last number of years, and yet we are where we are today. We are forced to do this, in my opinion. I didn't want to have to raise this today. I would rather the works be done. I want to acknowledge and thank Deputy Steven Matthews, who came

down shortly after the last storm we had. I believe he has secured funding, and has got the go-ahead from Irish Rail to proceed with some works, and I genuinely appreciate the interest he has shown here.

"The Murrough means so much to the fabric of Wicklow Town. The town has become so built up, and especially during the pandemic it was the only point where people could get out and go for a walk and clear their head. We really are at a loss here. We have heard that Irish Rail have taken the initiative and will work alongside Wicklow County Council. Thank god we have the railway line there, because I wouldn't like to see The Murrough if there wasn't a sense of urgency from Irish Rail because of it. I think we would just lose it.

"We have heard about a lot of investigation work that has to be done, but the reality is if the investigations keep going on, there will be nothing left to investigate. We are on the verge of losing something so precious to the people of Wicklow, it is unbelievable. We can't afford to lose any more."

Cllr Dunne said "It is a very important and historic part of Wicklow town. We all grew up with it. And I suppose, when you are used to something, you take it for granted. But to see the amount of destruction over the last number of years...we're worried whether there will be a Murrough there anymore."

Cllr Mary Kavanagh said "to anyone living in or around Wicklow, The Murrough is a precious amenity. It is our national park. It is as important to

us as Killarney National Park is to Kerry. To lose it would be to deny the local people the opportunity to walk in a very special place beside the sea. We're only at year three of the 10-year ECRIPP plan. It's a coastal erosion protection plan for the railway line. Ten years is too long to wait. I don't think The Murrough has seven years left. I'm not even sure if it has a year left. So something has to be done. Wicklow County Council is aware of the importance of the area as an amenity, and should have accessed funding over the years to try to prolong the life of The Murrough. I know we can't hold back coastal erosion, but we could have done something to try to prolong the life of this much beloved spot." Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive of



Going, going, gone: Councillors are calling for immediate measures to be taken to save The Murrough from further erosion

Wicklow County Council, said "I am talking to the OPW to see will they release additional funding or will they do the work on our behalf. Irish Rail have emergency powers and

we'll be encouraging them to use them to do the work, but my understanding of their emergency powers is that they can only be invoked if waves are actually hitting the rail line, which would

mean The Murrough would be gone, which is not a solution at all.

"It's an emergency at this stage. The next storm that hits, if it comes from an easterly direction, is going to

wash away any bit of Murrough that is left. I think we have to plug what is happening at the moment and try and work to a longer-term plan, which the ECRIPP plan is."

'We need to act now, before it's too late'

The path to Greystones North Beach, still accessible during the summer, has now completely collapsed following recent storms, with additional notable erosion of the cliff face.

Speaking after last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Stephen Stokes said "The area has undergone significant erosion. I raised this matter at the full meeting of Wicklow County Council on October 6th. The time for action is now. I am calling for decisive measures, whether this is rock armour or something else."

Cllr Stephen Stokes believes that key decision makers need to come together, whether it is

Sispar or Wicklow County Council. He further noted recent reports that coastal erosion is set to increase. "Sea levels are rising, and we are having unpredictable weather events. We need to act, before it's too late," he said.

The Irish Government recently published the National Coastal Change Management Strategy in October 2023. It made a number of recommendations and also referenced a managed retreat, which Cllr Stokes said he does

not want to see in Greystones.

"The report states that we should engage at an EU and bilateral level with neighbouring jurisdictions to examine best practice. However when it comes to the North Beach in Greystones, we should not consider any managed retreat. This stretch of coast is vital for the Cliff Walk, public transport and residential areas."

Speaking after a recent Council meeting clarification was sought as to how

the Greystones North Beach path can be reinstated. Greystones Green Party councillor Lourda Scott said "I organise regular beach cleans with Clean Coasts North Wicklow and regularly clean up on the North Beach. During the Spring and Summer we have seen the gradual deterioration of the path, along with the cliff face. I raised this to Council engineers but unfortunately since then the path has now completely collapsed, and access had been totally lost. We have already seen the extended closure of the Greystones Bray Cliff walk due to erosion, we don't want to

lose another valuable coastal amenity in the area."

Cllr Scott has sought clarification on who is responsible for addressing the access and overall deterioration of the North

Beach cliffs.

"I have been told that Sispar are responsible for the path leading to the beach. I have asked the Council to contact them asking for action to be taken quickly, I also have

been assured that funding is being sought for help to try and address the overall collapse of the North Beach cliffs. As we are seeing the effect of climate change with storms and monthly rainfall

increasing, this issue is only going to get worse with time. I hope that if we act now some mitigation measures can help us hold onto this valuable resource."



Cllr Stephen Stokes and Cllr Lourda Scott at Greystones North Beach



Public Meeting



Fisheries Local Action Groups
Grúpaí Gníomhaíochta Iascaigh Áitiúla

FLAG (Fisheries Local Action Group Programme) is a Community Led Local Development scheme that seeks to:

"enable a sustainable blue economy in coastal, island and inland areas, and foster the development of coastal communities."

This consultation will aid in the development of a strategy to seek funding from Priority 3 of the **European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF)**.

South East FLAG invite you to offer your views on what support is needed to secure the sustainable development of your local coastal community.

- What are the area's strengths?
- What are the challenges that need to be addressed?

This consultation is open to **all**, including:

- Tourism and other sectors of the Blue Economy
- Aquaculture
- Fisheries
- Community Groups

14th November 2023

Talbot Hotel, Wexford | 2-4pm

Arklow Bay Conference and Leisure

Hotel, Wicklow | 7-8.30pm

This is your local community. Please share your views.

Contact: FLAG.Strategies@ie.gt.com

Fassaroe Park and Ride plans move forward

Plans for the bus-based Park and Ride facility at Fassaroe were passed unanimously at last week's Wicklow County Council meeting. The proposed facility will have 388 car parking spaces, including 42 EV charging points and 26 spaces for mobility impaired users. There is also to be 40 bicycle parking stands and 20 dedicated bike lockers.

The site will be located to the west of the M11 Junction 6. The aim of the park and ride at this location is to intercept N11 traffic that originates further south and to transfer these journeys to bus from this location to Dublin City centre and vice-versa. The new bus service from the proposed facility would be an express service, with a frequency of three buses per hour in each direction during peak periods.

Councillors were informed last week that the proposed facility would not compromise the function of the N11 and would be in accordance with the objectives to reduce carbon emissions and to

promote greater use of sustainable transport.

Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District, Cllr Melanie Corrigan, said "I think it is going to be very, very well used and a great for the community. I would like to see possible linkage with the 185 bus coming from Enniskerry. We have a huge problem with the buses being cancelled at the last minute, so it could add to the connectivity of the whole area. Also, the 133 route is heavily used and is often full by the time it gets to Kilmacanogue, so it would be nice if there was a way to connect that up as well."

The facility will be under the ownership of Wicklow County Council, but the operation model for it has yet to be decided.

This will be the first of three new park and rides planned for Co. Wicklow. Park & Ride facilities are also to be created at Ashford/Rathnew at Junction 16, and Kilpedder at Junction 11.

Oliver Dalton from the NTA said "In relation to the future demand for these facilities along the corridor, we have used what is called the Eastern Regional Model, which is a transport model to assess the demand at various strategic locations, and I suppose the degree of success is a full car

park. Coming out of that analysis, we have identified that there is sufficient capacity on the site to cater for the demand up to the end of the Greater Dublin Area transport strategy, in collaboration with the other facilities that are planned along the N11 at Kilpedder and Ashford.

"It is the intention of the park and ride facility at Fassaroe that it will have its own dedicated services and that it won't leverage the abilities of the other services, which we know and appreciate are at capacity, and there is a body of work underway with our transport planning team to identify efficiencies in that network and to avoid the scenarios of buses not arriving, and so on and so forth.

"In terms of toilet facilities and the wider maintenance and operational programme for the park and

ride facilities nationwide, we're looking at tendering those services, but tendering those services on the basis of grouping them into a number of facilities and the most efficient model for the Exchequer."

Speaking after last week's meeting, Greystones Green Party Councillor Lourda Scott urged the development of the park and ride at Kilpedder to happen quickly.

Cllr Scott said: "This facility is badly needed and will provide an excellent option for people commuting to Dublin. The plan is to have regular buses from the Park and Ride into Merrion Square, so providing an alternative to driving into the city. I have also been told that the Part 8 process for the planned park and Ride by Kilpedder will start in the New Year. This will be of huge benefit

for people living in the Greystones district, as we all know about the congestion on the N11."

The Green Party Councillor also welcomed plans to make the site carbon neutral.

"When we first received a presentation on this proposal I made a very strong case that the facility should include solar panels as part of the design and be carbon neutral. This is the case in the UK and this is the sort of ambition we need in order to hit our climate targets. We have seen solar panel car ports used extremely successfully in Wicklow County buildings. I was pleased that the NTA have told me that they are now actively looking into ways of bringing this to the new park and ride facilities. I will continue to push this as the plans progress."

Dutch Cycling Embassy visit Greystones

Work to boost cycling options continues

The Dutch Cycling Embassy, the group which works to share Dutch cycling expertise internationally, last week visited Greystones as part of their ongoing study trip to Ireland.

After arriving on the DART, the visiting party toured Greystones in order to see first-hand the infrastructure which is in place. The cycle through the area was followed by a meeting with the Wicklow County Council, before the delegation returned to the capital.

According to Margot Daris of the Dutch Cycling Embassy, the Wicklow visit provided excellent insights into the situation facing local cyclists, including those who would like to commute using a combination of bicycle and train transport as is common in the Netherlands.

"We have undertaken this study trip to learn more about all of the good work which is taking place in Ireland, and where possible to share our experiences with our partners in Ireland.

"Just last month, the Wicklow

County Council undertook a cycling study trip of their own to the Netherlands where they visited Ede, Bennekom and Utrecht, and we want to ensure that we continue to share knowledge in both directions in the future," Margot said.

As part of the Wicklow County Council Climate Adaptation Strategy, the Council has committed to developing a Sustainable Transport Plan, and this year the National Transport Authority allocated E8.4 million to fund 39 projects across Wicklow.

Accompanying the group around the town was Cllr Derek Mitchell. "I cycled around the town with them. I am keen to get more children cycling to school and also encourage safe storage for electric bikes at the station. Both of these would cut down car usage," he said.

The Dutch Ambassador Maaike

van Koldam said that she looked forward to further cooperation on cycling policy between the Netherlands and Ireland in the coming years.

"While the Dutch people are certainly proud of developing over 35,000 km of dedicated cycling paths which has allowed so many people in the Netherlands to commute effectively and safely by bike, this did not happen overnight.

"It took many years, and nor is the process of improving and decarbonising our transportation system complete. By utilising the benefits of technology and by continuing with the sort of partnerships we see today in Wicklow and across Ireland, both countries can reap the rewards and advance our progress towards achieving Net Zero," Ambassador van Koldam said.



Cllr Derek Mitchell and the Dutch delegation inspecting the cycling lanes at Greystones seafront by the 'Seaside Bear'



Ambassador Maaike van Koldam (middle, standing) joins the Dutch Cycling Embassy in Greystones, with Cllr Derek Mitchell.

Major public transport improvement announced ahead of schedule for West Wicklow

Public transport boost for residents of Baltinglass and Dunlavin



Minister Simon Harris

After weeks of intensive engagement with the NTA Wicklow Fine Gael TD, Minister Simon Harris has confirmed that residents in Baltinglass and Dunlavin are finally going to get access to a much needed bus service.

The new 885 bus route is set to come into operation on the 20th November, at least two months in advance of its initial scheduling.

Speaking on this breaking news Minister Harris said "This is fantastic news for the people of West Wicklow who have been waiting forever for a bus to service their area. I am thrilled that the service is starting so soon, way ahead of the initial scheduling. This has been months in the making and I'm glad to say there's a firm start date for the operation of this service: 20th November.

"From speaking to the people of West Wicklow, it cannot be underestimated what this bus route will mean to them and I can't wait for them to be able to avail of it in the short term. The bus service will be a great addition and resource for local

residents, connecting them to Sallins' train station, a major transport link for travelling in and out of the city centre and for people looking to visit Naas Hospital."

The bus route will serve Baltinglass - Dunlavin - Ballymore Eustace Blessington - Naas/Sallins, it will operate 4 services each way every day, with the route's full timetable to be published tomorrow Friday 10th November.

Minister Harris concluded "I have long campaigned for extra bus services, especially in West Wicklow which has for years been underserved. This news is about promises becoming reality. I will not stop campaigning on the issue of public transport services being increased and expanded as this is one of my top priorities as a public representative for the people of Wicklow."



Jade Byrne with Robert Roche of Pure Irish Ice and Wicklow County Camogie Chairman Ivor Lehane at the Nancy Murray Cup camogie presentation evening in the Arklow Bay Hotel. The Wicklow Camogie team were crowned winners of the All-Ireland Nancy Murray cup this year.

Progress on Wicklow school bus routes welcomed

Social Democrats Jennifer Whitmore has welcomed progress being made on some of the outstanding School Transport routes across the county. Deputy Whitmore made the comments following a meeting with the Regional Transport Manager responsible for the Wicklow school service.

Deputy Whitmore said "It was welcome news to hear that the B9200 route was one of the latest routes to get back up and running and I know parents are relieved that this route has now finally been resolved. The impact that the non-operation of this service had on parents and students cannot be understated.

"Unfortunately, there are still a number of routes outstanding, and which are not currently operating. Bus Eireann have assured me however that they are working very hard on getting the remaining routes opera-

tional as soon as is possible with one of the main difficulties they are facing being the recruitment of drivers.

"While this is an issue I see in my office every year, this year was particularly bad. The same problems are raised time and again with routes being cancelled or capacity issues arising and leaving children stranded at the side of the road and families with no way to get their kids to school at the last minute. Every year the lack of trained and certified drivers is mentioned as a reason. The Government now



Jennifer Whitmore TD

have the benefit of hindsight and sufficient time to put measures in place to make sure that there are enough drivers for every school route next year. It can be as simple

as putting a pathway in place to make sure drivers are trained and certified and ready to go by September 2024.

"The start of term for 2023 was particularly chaotic and I am still in contact with parents who have had to arrange their own transport for their children to get to school. I welcome the introduction of the interim grant to help these parents get their children to school but I have some serious reservations about the administration of it. Retrospective payment to these parents is not acceptable. If bus routes

are cancelled in future, upfront payment are a must so that parents who are struggling financially are not at a disadvantage and their children can get to school.

"I will continue to prioritise school bus transport for the children of Wicklow until all bus routes are operational again. I will also continue to raise this issue so that we are not in the same situation next year. The Government have time to rectify the situation and avert the same crisis occurring next year, but they must act now."



Dublin Bus agrees to examine improvements for 84x

Harris campaigning for increased public transport services for commuters from Greystones, Delgany, Kilcoole and Newcastle

Minister Simon Harris has been in touch with Dublin Bus to demand increased public transport services for commuters in South East Wicklow.

Minister Harris last week said: "Residents from Greystones, Delgany, Kilcoole and Newcastle deserve increased capacity and frequency of public transport services. I've been in touch with justifiably frustrated commuters from our community who were not able to avail of the 84x bus service due to it being regularly over capacity.

"Since then I have contacted Dublin Bus to demand more bus services for the area of South East Wicklow and especially for the 84x bus route which is a key route for Wicklow commuters wanting to travel to Dublin City Centre.

"It's clear that there is an increased customer demand in our County I am eager to see this demand met with supply through more frequent bus services. Dublin Bus have informed me that their Operations Team have launched a study which will examine how the 84x route is performing. This study is set to be examined at their next meeting with the National Transport Association (NTA). My hope is that this study will address the concerns I and many commuters in the community share.

"Wicklow's population has quickly increased over the past few years and it is only natural that public transport service increase at the same pace, especially as more and more commuters choose to travel in a more sustainable manner with buses and trains. The people of South East Wicklow can count on me to campaign on this issue until the appropriate level of public transport services is made available to them."

Woodbrook Station set for 2025 completion



Aaron McAllorum

The National Transport Authority (NTA) has confirmed that a construction contractor has been appointed to build Woodbrook Train Station.

It's understood that John Craddock Ltd. will deliver the station for use in 2025.

Commenting on the confirmation, Aaron McAllorum, Bray-based member of the Social Democrats' Wicklow branch, said: "This is of course welcome news, but it is just one small piece in a significant expansion of the DART Network.

"The original Woodbrook Halt opened in 1910 and ceased operations in 1960. The NTA and Irish Rail must be cognisant that land use, planning and public transport services are all considered in the broad context of the delivery of their projects and ensure that there is adequate service capacity built into the DART+ Project.

"Large scale housing projects such

as the Special Housing Developments in Bray and Shankill can't outrun public services and amenities, successive governments have prioritised developer profits over the public interest and I believe we can reverse this trend, there must be a better harmony in the delivery on both aspects.

"These housing schemes are being constructed and some of them are near completion and it is essential that public transport infrastructure and capacity is there to meet the increased demand."

Fine Gael selects Local Election candidates for 2024 in Baltinglass

Fine Gael is in the process of selecting the candidates that will represent the party in next year's Local Elections in the constituency. The Baltinglass convention was held on the 23rd October in Germaines of Baltinglass.



Minister Simon Harris and Bernard Durkan TD, with West Wicklow Fine Gael candidates Peter Stapleton, Cllr Avril Cronin and Cllr Edward Timmins

Sitting councillors on Wicklow County Council; Councillor Avril Cronin who represents the Baltinglass electoral area, and Councillor Edward Timmins, who also represents the Baltinglass electoral area will be two of the party's candidates. In addition, the party nominated Peter Stapleton, a first-time candidate from Tinahely.

Councillor Edward Timmins was first elected in 2004 and has been a member of the party since the 1980s. He lives in Grangecon with his wife and daughter. Councillor Avril Cronin made history in West Wicklow by serving as the first female Cathaoirleach of the Baltinglass Municipal District from 2021-2022. Councillor Cronin was also the first female



Minister Harris and Cllr Edward Timmins

councillor to be elected to the district. Peter Stapleton is from Tinahely and is a member of the constituency's Young Fine Gael branch. The branch is delighted to see more young candidates being nominated.

Bernard Durkan, TD for Kildare chaired the selection convention. He said: "We are lucky to have a great team repre-

sending the party at local level. These candidates have already shown how invested they are in their own areas. They have already demonstrated great commitment to improving their local areas and that commitment is set to grow."

Minister Simon Harris said: "Fine Gael has started to select the candidates for next

year's local elections, the candidates selected will bring a strong mix of experience, energy, youth and diversity to the party. We had a successful local election in 2019, with 255 councillors returned. We were the first Government party in two decades to buck the trend and increase our number of council seats at a mid-term election."

Citizens Information Board and Wicklow Library launch new information pilot scheme in Wicklow Town

The Citizens Information Board (CIB) has announced an innovative new pilot scheme in Wicklow town. Members of the public can now access free, confidential and trusted information and advice online from an Information Officer from South Leinster Citizens Information Service (CIS) in a dedicated private space in Wicklow Library.

Members of the public can book an appointment with an expert Information Officer and have a one-on-one online session in a private space in Wicklow Library.

The Information Officer will offer expertise and guidance on a range of topics including social welfare, taxation and education.

Martina Cronin, Development Manager, South Leinster CIS, noted how the Citizens Information Service in Wicklow has previously worked successfully with the library service: "I am looking forward to working again with Wicklow Library in the provision of this new and innovative information service for the community. I would like to thank the library staff for their support of this important initiative."

Mary Lyne, Standards and Development Manager, CIB said: "CIB was selected as one of the recipients of the Public Service Innovation Fund for a project that involves exploring technology to



expand the reach of Citizens Information Services. CIB was delighted to partner with South Leinster Citizens Information Service and Wicklow Library to develop the first of three remote library Information Clinics. Connecting people with an Information Officer using a video call in a comfortable and private space in their local library will bring Citizens Information even closer to the community. There are plans to roll out two further clinics in counties Mayo and Galway in conjunction with the library services."

Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, welcomed the initiative, saying "This service will provide great support for the people of Wicklow town."

Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, added "This initiative shows the added values the local authority library service can offer. I wish it every success."

This new service will be available on Thursday afternoons between 2pm and 4pm by appointment.

This service is open to any member of the public and an appointment can

be made by contacting the CIC in Bray on 0818 07 6780 or email bray@citinfo.ie. The public can also drop into Wicklow Library to enquire about the service.

CIB is a State agency under the remit of the Department of Social Protection and funds the Citizens Information Services. CIB was awarded funding to run this pilot project in Wicklow and two other libraries through the Public Service Innovation Fund. This project is supported and funded by the Department of Public Expenditure NDP Delivery and Reform.



Cllr Tommy Annesley, Maisie Dillon, Mary Dillon and Jim Rees at the launch of Mary's book, 'Where the River Meets the Sea', in the Harbour Bar in Arklow. The novel is set in the 1950's and explores the impact of rumour and gossip on Carrickbawn, a small, close knit town. Written by Mary Dillon, a native of Arklow, each chapter is told from the perspective of a different character leading the reader to an expected conclusion. Copies of the novel are available from Kavanaghs shop on the Wexford Road, Paul DoYLES Main Street and Burkes Spar Lower Main Street and from Mary Dillon through Facebook.

LEGACY WILL THEM WELL

Making a will is one of the most important decisions that anyone will ever make. This legal document guarantees that appropriate arrangements are made for your family and friends, and your assets are allocated according to your preferences after your passing, considering certain rights and conditions.

The Community Foundation for Ireland says Legacies, either in a will or a 'letter of wishes', offer an opportunity for people to continue contributing to causes which they are passionate about to ensure future generations will live in thriving local communities. The Foundation, which works with over 5,000 voluntary, community and charitable groups across the country and has distributed almost €100 Million in donations in the past 22-



years, believes the full potential of legacies has not been reached and is seeking to increase awareness.

People who wish to leave a gift are being invited to support The Community Foundation which will ensure future support goes where the need is greatest but with a particular focus in four areas:

Empowering Generations, an opportunity to support people across all age groups whether strengthening young voices or standing up for the rights of older persons.

Inclusive Communities, ensuring equality for all by leaving a gift for our migrant, Traveller or LGBT+ communities and others who are too often left on the sidelines or brushed aside.

Accelerating Change, which supports groundbreaking work across a range of issues like promoting cross-border civil society partnerships or shaping national debates on issues like poverty by supporting world-class research.

Sustainable Futures, which facilitates donors who want to be part of the response to the biggest challenges of our time, the climate and biodiversity emergencies.

Denise Charlton, Chief Executive of The Community Foundation for Ireland says: "Making a will, putting affairs in order and planning for the future is something all of us have a habit of putting on the long finger. Taking action now not only prevents future uncertainty and confusion in families but also is an opportunity to show your intention to continue to support causes which you have held dear throughout your life. Many of those causes can in communities in Wicklow and a legacy can ensure they thrive into the future for the benefit of your younger loved ones."

"There are options. A legacy can be part of a will, however if you are not yet ready to take that step it can also be in the form of a Letter of Wishes.

A will is a formal legal document which appoints executors to administer your estate and if you wish to leave a gift to a charity it will receive it tax free. Your will should be prepared by a solicitor who will advise you of the tax and legal implications of your decisions and who will use your outlined instructions to draft your will.



The Community Foundation for Ireland and its partners believe in equality for all in thriving communities.

"We work with individuals, families, corporates and other trusts and foundations as well as Government to translate giving in the moment to giving that is strategic, sustainable and impactful. We use our skills and knowledge developed over 22-years to help donors turn aspirations into effective investments."

"Since our establishment, we have provided in excess of €86m to communities through strategic investments. Our Donors provide leadership and support across areas as diverse as engaging communities on climate action, restorative justice for young people, human rights as well as identifying future priorities, including support for all-island civic society engagement."

"We have a dedicated and committed team; they have extensive experience of grant-making from working with over 5,000 non-profit organisations at a national, regional and local level throughout Ireland and overseas. With over 1,800 community foundations globally, the community foundation model is proven and effective model for social change."

A Legacy with a difference

Thank you for supporting Saint Joseph's Shankill; Ireland's only home solely dedicated to caring for people with dementia.

We make moments matter every day for the people in our care, people like Mary. Your help in the future means that we can continue our award winning care.

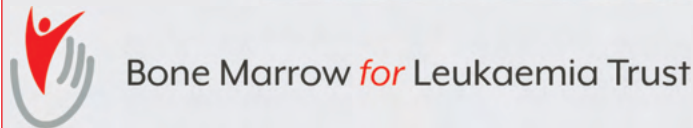
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A TRADITION OF LEGAL EXCELLENCE

15 Wicklow projects qualify for Young Scientist Exhibition

The top themes emerging from the project entries for the 2024 BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition (BTYSTE) have been revealed by BT Ireland. The data shows that secondary school students from across the island of Ireland are interested in learning more about AI, diversity & inclusion and mental health. This January, 550 projects and hundreds of students will represent their school and community at the 2024 BTYSTE. Among them will be 15 projects from seven schools in Co. Wicklow.

Of all the submissions for the 2024 exhibition, the most common project titles are focused on health (16%); mental, menstrual, sleep, medicine, ageing, behaviour. Mental health project entries covered a broad range of topics, such as beauty standards, sports performance, exercise and sleep. 2% of all entries specifically investigated the health and environmental implications of vaping, which suggests the awareness and concerns of young people around vaping.

AI accounted for 4% of all entries, with projects looking at how programmes such as Chat GPT can be used effectively in education and health. Diversity & Inclusion was another topic of interest for students this year. Of all entries, 3% focus on developing apps and technology to help improve the daily lives of those with physical disabilities. Neurodiversity (autism, in particular) was another emerging theme, suggesting growing interest from young people in the ways that technology can improve the lives of neurodivergent people.

Similar to previous years, the environment continues to be a strong trend within entries, with 11% of all projects covering the topic, from ways to become more sustainable, to environmentally friendly farming practices, microplastics, natural fertilisers and even fast fashion.

Young peoples' interest in sport remains high, with 9% of projects investigating topics ranging from sports injuries to performance, as well as the use of technology within sports, gender, and mental health. Furthermore 6% of all projects also delve into education, investigating areas from mental health to academic success, innovation, and the use

of apps and devices within classrooms and learning environments.

Schools who entered the 2024 BTYSTE were notified of results on Wednesday, 25th October. From January 10th to 13th, hundreds of students will showcase their innovative ideas in the areas of Social & Behavioural Sciences, Technology, Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences, Biological & Ecological Sciences, and a brand-new category being introduced for 2024, Health and Wellbeing.

Mari Cahalane, Head of the BTYSTE said: "The BTYSTE is a fantastic platform for students to develop their best ideas to improve the world we live in and showcase them nationally and internationally. As one of the largest STEM school exhibitions in Europe, our alumni have been recognised globally and with the standard of entries for 2024 just as high as years before, we're very confident that trend will continue. We are excited to see the 2024 BTYSTE entrants showcase their extraordinary work at next year's exhibition."

The 60th BTYSTE will take place from January 10-13, 2024. There are over

200 prizes to be won and a prize fund of €50,000 for BTYSTE 2024. The overall BT Young Scientist & Technologist of the Year Award will see the winners go on to represent Ireland at the prestigious European

Union Contest for Young Scientists (EUCYS), which takes place in the European City of Science 2024 - Katowice, Poland. Ireland has a strong record of taking home the prize for first place at the EUCYS, with 17 wins over the past 33 years.



Pictured are Alison Meylor, Basil Amin, and Lily-May Ennis, as BT Ireland announce the key trends for the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition (BTYSTE) 2024. The BTYSTE 2024 will take place in Dublin from January 10 to 13, with 550 qualified projects on display.

BTYSTE 2024 Wicklow projects

Avondale Community College

- *Mind Your Mind - Mental Health: Who, When & Why?
- *Does Exercise affect Your Memory?

Colaiste Chraobh Abhann

- *Are You Paying Attention?
- *To What Extent does Post-Exercise Exhaustion Impact Memory Retention?

Gaelcholaiste na Mara

- *Beet It: Analysis of the effects of Beetroot Juice on the management of Asthma symptoms

Greystones Community College

- *Aero Dog
- *Creation of a Wormhole Through Quantum Field Interactions

St. Mary's College

- *Deodorant 101 - A Solution to Pollution
- *Vit Fit Teens!
- *Combating Homelessness: How Can Water Help?
- *I'm Too Texty For My Car
- *A Statistical Analysis of the Lasting Impact of the Government's Covid Protocols on Adolescent Social Anxiety and Social Isolation Which is Reflected in Absenteeism at Post Primary Level
- *Housing Crisis - Could Retirement Be The Key

St. Gerard's School

- *Stopping the Spread of Suicide Amongst Teens Due To Social Media

Woodbrook College

- *Does Our Menstrual Cycle Affect Our Physiological Traits?

Olympic Movement Breaks launches in primary schools

On 7th November the Minister of State for Sport and Physical Education, Minister Thomas Byrne TD launched the Olympic Movement Breaks with the Olympic Federation of Ireland. The initiative will see the Olympic Federation of Ireland's Dare to Believe programme working alongside the Active School Flag Programme in creating exciting opportunities for primary school pupils to be more physically active.



Pictured at the South East Technological University's (SETU) conferring ceremony were Taylor Kinnaird from Enniscorthy graduating with a BSc (Hons) in Health and Exercise Science, Nicole Keating from Duncannon, and Nicole Humy from Ashford, graduating with a BSc (Hons) in Sport & Exercise Science. This year's conferring ceremonies at SETU featured the inaugural awarding of honorary doctorates and the graduation of 80 students from Wicklow.

The Olympic Movement Breaks is an easy-to-use format, with a series of short videos led by Olympians and High-Performance athletes demonstrating fun exercises and activities that students of all abilities can do. The short videos, across a variety of different sports including athletics, boxing, rugby sevens, swimming, break-dancing, and para power-lifting, will help generate classroom-based movement opportunities.

With a shared goal of highlighting the many fun benefits of being more active, Dare to Believe and the Active School Flag Programme are using the Olympic Movement Breaks to encourage schools to take part in a four-week 'Active Break Every Day' challenge. Twelve athletes lead easy and fun exercises that range between 3 - 5 minutes and require no additional resources.

Regular movement for children brings many

benefits to the teaching and learning process, and following these high-performance athletes is a great way for young people to see some of the athletes who will represent Ireland in the 2024 Paris Olympic Games next summer.

Teachers will have access to a challenge chart where they can

check off videos that their class completes each day during the 4-week challenge, which runs from Monday, 13th of November through to Friday, 8th of December. Furthermore, additional resources will be available alongside the videos where children can learn more about the athletes featured in the videos, by reading their bios and information on their respective Olympic sport. They also will

learn about Olympic history and values and have the option of participating in a fun Olympic quiz at the end of each week.

The Olympic Movement Breaks were created by the Dare to Believe co-founders Roisin Jones and Roisin McGettigan-Dumas with input from the Olympic athletes who participated in the programme, and with input from several teacher consultants.



Team Ireland boxer Dean Clancy alongside Noah Gray, Nathan Hunt, Ciara Culhane and Ciara Jones, attending a Dare to Believe Olympic Movement Breaks Programme organised by the Olympic Federation of Ireland.

Greystones primary schools' smartphone policy to be rolled out nationwide

All primary schools in Ireland are being issued guidelines based on the ground-breaking model of eight schools in Greystones, where parents agreed to not buy smartphones for their children.

The Government has agreed to issue to all primary schools in the country guidelines to inform and educate parents on the dangers of smartphones for young children.

The guidelines are based on the pioneer move by eight primary schools in Greystones where parents collectively pledged not to buy smartphones for their children while they are in primary school.

Speaking on this breaking news, Minister Simon Harris said: "Today's news will be welcomed by parents around the country and I am proud to say this policy has come from our own innovative and forward thinking schools in Greystones. The policies put forward by Greystones primary schools have been an overwhelming success and by all accounts make parents lives easier while also protecting young people from cyberbullying or exposure to violent content online.

"Parents need to be supported by the Government and by the schools when it comes to protecting their children from the pressures and dangers of smartphones being used at a young age. I think it's important Government put forward a national

policy to guide parents and schools when it comes to our youth using this type of technology at such a young age.

"What these guidelines set out to do is to make sure that all schools deal with smartphones in a safe manner. We know that young people can be very affected by the use of smartphones at a young age and it's crucial we put in place guidelines that set the national standard. I want to pay tribute to the primary schools in Greystones for leading the charge on this policy initiative which I think will make a significant difference and will ensure our schools are safer environments for our children."

Local Fianna Fail Senator Pat Casey also welcomed the news, saying "There are undoubtedly some positives to smartphones and social media but anyone who spends time on certain social media platforms knows how toxic they can be. More and more reports are being published on the damage being done to children and teenagers by certain types of mobile phone use, social media use and internet content. Children and teenagers can be exposed to content that is damaging their mental health

and often parents can be left feeling powerless.

"My colleagues and I in Fianna Fail are of the view that Ireland can be, and must be, a world leader in ensuring that children and young people are not targeted and are not harmed by their interactions with the digital world.

"I've been especially impressed by what I've seen in Greystones where parents of primary school children agreed collectively not to buy smartphones for their children whilst in primary school. These new guidelines introduced by Minister Norma Foley are designed to see similar initiatives being rolled out across other schools and contain practical advice and suggestions about devising voluntary agreements among parents concerning the use of smartphones for their primary school age children.

"We must make it easier for parents to limit the content their children are exposed to and I was delighted to hear Minister Foley say that as part of a wider package of supports for parents, she will provide funding to Webwise, the Irish internet safety organisation, to deliver new web safety lectures for parents."



20 Tirlan dairy farmers are making their mark as the inaugural cohort of farm family suppliers to graduate from the Tirlan and Baileys Sustainable Farming Academy. This is the first Sustainable Farming Academy class to graduate with their Diploma in Environment, Sustainability and Climate from University College Cork, which was designed to provide them with the most up-to-date knowledge, skills and know-how needed to farm even more sustainably into the future. Among the Wicklow participants were Amanda Mooney, Ashford and Linda Cuffe from Kiltegan (pictured).



Jennifer Whitmore TD

'Vacant teaching posts impacting schools across Wicklow'

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has called on the Minister for Education to take urgent action to address the rising number of vacant primary school teaching posts around the country.

Her comments come in response to the publication of results of a survey of 1,094 primary and special needs schools which was conducted by the Irish National Teacher's Organisation (INTO), in conjunction with the Irish Primary Principals' Network (IPPN) and the Catholic Primary Schools Management Association (CPSMA) during the first week of October.

The survey revealed that there are 809 vacant teaching posts across primary classes nationally, 32 of which are in primary schools in county Wicklow. 721 schools, two thirds of the schools that responded to the survey indicated that they had used a Special Education Teacher (SET) to cover for an absence,

demonstrating that it is the pupils with the greatest needs who are being impacted most by these unfilled positions.

"Primary School Principals have been warning us about the negative impact the teacher shortage has been having on schools and the extreme pressure that they have been under to fill these positions. The INTO survey results demonstrate just how bad this crisis is," commented Deputy Whitmore.

"We are already seeing the impact that these vacant teaching posts are having on children and school communities in my constituency of Wicklow. Understaffing has been a huge cause of

stress and concern for the staff and students at Newcourt School in Bray over the last number of years. It has posed immediate and urgent challenges for the school community, which is particularly concerning due to the high level of special educational needs of the children there," explained Deputy Whitmore, who is the Social Democrats spokesperson for Children.

"A Principal from another school in Wicklow told me of their concerns about filling two maternity leave positions this school year. The school only received one applicant for one of these positions and the Principal fears that they may be forced to return to the classroom as a teaching-Principal in order to fill the second maternity leave position.

"With the INTO revealing that a further 1,202 vacancies are expected over

the next 3 months this crisis is only going to get worse. The Minister for Education must take urgent action to address this teacher shortage and support our school communities who are struggling to fill these gaps."

Launching the report INTO Deputy General Secretary Deirdre O'Connor said: "In the midst of a staffing crisis in our schools, particularly in our urban areas, all options must actively be explored to ensure that no child is left without a qualified teacher. We are acutely aware of the profound impact that the housing crisis and escalating living costs are having on the recruitment and retention of teachers in Ireland, particularly within areas experiencing rent pressures. Prior to the austerity cuts to salaries, allowances and posts of responsibility there was no teacher retention crisis in Ireland."

'Roundwood school clearly in need of a traffic warden'

Fine Gael TD, Minister Simon Harris has urged the County Council to ensure safety measures are put in place as soon as possible so that young children can safely cross Lough Dan Road in Roundwood.

Speaking last week, Minister Harris said "Students of St Laurence O'Toole's National School are at risk of the traffic flow. The crossing of Lough Dan Road is unsupported and clearly needs a dedicated school traffic warden with a lollipop sign.

"A traffic warden can make a real difference especially on road like the Lough Dan close to a school. I have spoken to a number of concerned parents with children in St Laurence O'Toole's school who have raised their frustrations with me regarding traffic safety and safe crossings. Clearly more needs to be done here.

"It's of paramount importance to me that all schools in Wicklow have measures put in place by the Local Authority to ensure that they are supported when it comes to nearby school traffic. We are all aware that traffic safety is a major concern in our County."

Minister Harris concluded: "I am committed to having extra measures put in place, such as traffic wardens at schools and signage to signal motorists to slow down. A School Traffic Warden in St Laurence O'Toole's NS working in the morning, lunchtime and in the evenings would be of great benefit so that all children remain safe and sound when going to school."



Minister Harris visiting St. Laurence O'Toole's National School earlier this year.

Equestrian vaulting training day held at Festina Lente



Abi's balancing act

Festina Lente Equestrian Learning Centre in Bray recently hosted an Equestrian Vaulting training workshop on the 2nd and 3rd of November, for coaches, lungers vaulters and vaulting horses.

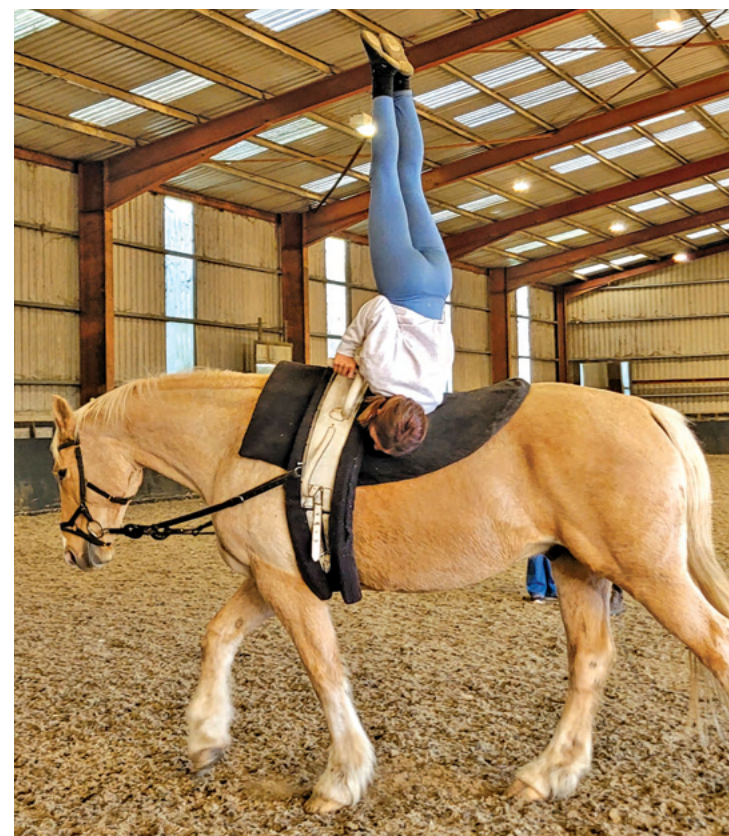
Equestrian vaulting is a combination of dance and gymnasts on a moving horse.

"We were delighted to host Jenny Levett, from Moulton Vaulting Group, her daughter, Urssie Levett, who is an international vaulter T. G. B. Alison Rimaud, and international vaulting judge, and Charlotte Rimaud, an ex- international vaulter for Ireland,' Festina Lente stated.

"Participating were coaches and lungers, Clodagh Carey, Roisin Cameron Gregory, Jim Mernin, Tara Barrett and Essie Mooney.

"In total over the two days, we had 27 vaulters who were training from the following clubs, Festina Lente Equestrian Vaulting Club, Ballyrogan Equestrian Vaulting Club, and 3 new vaulters from a possible new Equestrian Vaulting Club, Glenleary Riding School.

"There was great fun and excitement. Everyone worked on their groundwork, on the barrel and with the horses, Jelly, Ginger, Louis and Morgan, without these fantastic horses, vaulting would not be possible."



Sophie's shoulder stand

Extraordinary Wicklow GAA occasions detailed in new book

Wicklow features prominently in John Scally's new book 100 Extraordinary GAA Occasions. Scally writes:

Often times Irish people emigrating to foreign shores bring their love of Gaelic Games with them, such as the Wicklow comedian Dara O'Brian. This led to a memorable interview on RTE.

Des Cahill: 'Do you have to explain to the English what hurling was about?'

Dara O'Brian: 'No, but I have to explain it to the people of Wicklow.'

The Life of O'Reilly Wicklow have always produced great footballers though never enough at the one time.

Among their greatest was Gerry O'Reilly in the 1950s. His favourite character in the game was Kit Carroll from Dunlavin who played with him on the Wicklow minor team. Like Gerry he was fond of a pint after a game. What was unusual about Kit though was that after a match he would have an auction at the bar for his socks and jersey and would always get a pound or two to fund his drinking.

Gerry attributes the failure of the Wicklow team to the 1950s to the inadequacies of the

county board. He claims that the men on the county board were so incompetent they couldn't even pick their own noses.

The road less travelled

A prospective young bank official was being interviewed for a job in Wicklow. The bank manager was chairman of the local club and said, 'We need a centre-half forward with courage and a strong set of hands like yours.'

'Sorry sir,' said the lad. 'I don't know a thing about football.'

'No worries. We need referees too.'

Obvious bias

Sometimes though referees are their own worst enemies. After two midfielders were embroiled in a serious entanglement in a club match in Wicklow the captain of the home team asked when the referee finally blew his whistle, 'Who's the free for ref?'

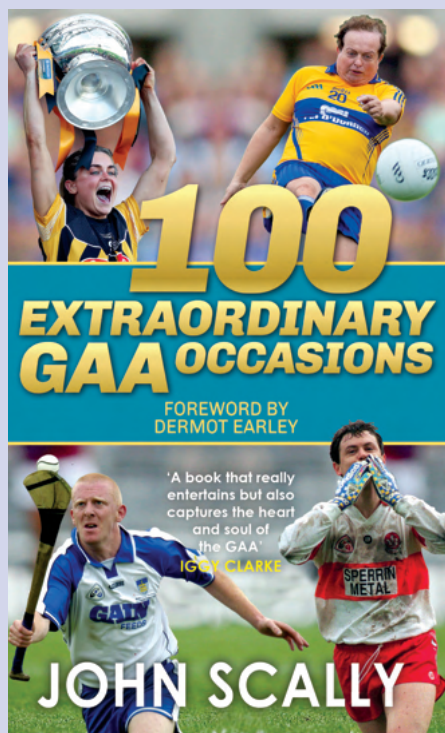
'It's for us.'

Get your man

A club team in Wicklow was facing defeat. At half-time the coach roared some fight into them. 'And you John, it's about time you got ferocious.'

'What's his number?' said John.

John Scally's new book 100 Extraordinary GAA Occasions is available in all good bookshops now.



Two Wicklow GAA clubs receive additional funding to develop walking tracks

funding under the Healthy Ireland GAA Walking Tracks initiative. Across the country many GAA, Camogie and LGFA (Ladies Gaelic Football Association) clubs are receiving additional funding to improve the accessibility of existing community walking track facilities on GAA grounds. Aughrim GAA are set to receive €15,000 and Vallemount GAA are in line for €10,000.

Minister Harris said "This is great news for both Wicklow GAA clubs. I'm delighted to see additional funding going to both Aughrim and Vallemount GAA clubs to have their grounds further upgraded and developed for better walking tracks.

"The funding announced today is in addition an earlier allocation of funding to a number of GAA clubs across the country announced in April. Promoting walking is a great initiative and there has been huge interest from GAA clubs in applying for this fund-

ing across the country so it's great to see Wicklow Clubs be successful and also benefit from it today.

"There is huge enthusiasm and commitment in Wicklow to develop more inclusive sporting facilities in the County and I look forward to

seeing this funding being used to promote physical activity that enhances health and wellbeing in our community.

"I want to congratulate both Aughrim and Vallemount GAA clubs on their successful applications and thank them for the work they do on

behalf of the community and their invaluable contribution year round.

"It's so important to me that sporting facilities continue to receive funding to better promote healthy activities and I will continue to promote initiatives like these in Government."



Pauline, Casey and Oliver Kelly with the Nancy Murray Cup presentation evening in the Arklow Bay Hotel last week. The Wicklow Camogie adult team were crowned winners of the All-Ireland Nancy Murray cup this year.

SSE Renewables launches its Design a Christmas Decoration from Recycled Materials Competition 2023

Competition to select one child to help Santa turn on the Christmas Tree lights in Arklow

In promoting a 'green Christmas', SSE Renewables, in partnership with the Arklow Christmas Festival Committee and Arklow Municipal District, has announced a competition to design a Christmas decoration from recycled materials.

The competition is divided into four age categories: 7 and under; 8-10; 11-12; and 13 years and over. Winning competition category prizes include 'One for All' vouchers. One lucky child, with the overall winning entry, will be selected to help Santa turn on the Christmas lights at the launch of the Christmas Festival on Saturday, 25th November 2023, in St Mary's Park, Main Street, Arklow.

Completed competition entries should be dropped into the Arklow Library on Main Street by Wednesday, 15th November.

Deirdre Keogh, SSE Renewables Community Engagement Manager for Arklow Bank Wind Park said: "It's a busy time for the SSE Renewables team with our planning application for our offshore infrastructure due for submission in early 2024 but we are delighted to host for a second year, the

Design a Christmas decoration competition from recycled materials. Sustainability is close to our hearts, and we're looking forward to receiving the creative, colourful, sustainable decorations that the local children come up with and to pick one lucky winner to be the guest of honour alongside the famous Mr Claus to turn on the Arklow Christmas Tree lights on Saturday, 25th November in St Mary's Park, Arklow. At SSE Renewables, we are committed to supporting the local community and look forward to working again with the Arklow Christmas Festival Committee and Arklow Municipal District to spread some festive cheer around Arklow this Christmas!"

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



SSE Renewables Community Engagement Manager Deirdre Keogh, Catherine Murphy and Alvina Brehony of Arklow Municipal District launching the 'Design a Christmas Decoration from Recycled Materials' competition.

Wicklow Bealtaine event organisers invited to 'The Gathering'



Built on Bridges, MMS choir and dancers. Photo by Enrique Carnicero

Are you an individual, an artist or a member of a group that organises Bealtaine Festival events in your community? Age & Opportunity, producers of the Bealtaine Festival, invites you to join us in Dublin, at the National Gallery of Ireland on November 15th, for this year's Bealtaine Gathering.

This event will be a chance to connect with other organisers, hear about inspiring projects and reflect on a shared vision of creativity as we age, as well as planning for Bealtaine 2024!

The theme for the day is Community, Diversity and New Directions in our work and organisers have put together an exciting line up speakers to explore these topics. The Bealtaine Gathering will also be a key opportunity for attendees to network, share experiences and give feedback on their chal-

lenges and needs as we look ahead to 2024.

Bealtaine Director Dr. Tara Byrne said: "The Gathering is such an important part of the Bealtaine Festival schedule as it both looks back (at the previous festival) and forward to the next. This year in particular we've worked hard to make it as relevant as possible to our Bealtaine partners and we hope our deep dive on diversity and community will provide new insights on ways to work as well as some practical tips that even the most seasoned of arts organis-

ers might need."

The keynote address Diversity Works Both Ways: Reciprocity is Vital will be given by Conny Groot, (Netherlands), who has worked extensively on inclusive arts projects that have brought together communities from different backgrounds. Her passion is to generate both cultural and social impact by stimulating the exchange of narratives through film, music and storytelling. For full details and to book see Bealtaine.ie.

A laugh-out-loud farce

DRINKING HABITS, the American laugh-out-loud farce by Tom Smith, will be staged at the Pavilion Theatre, Dún Laoghaire next month (15th-18th November) by Dalkey-based St Patrick's Dramatic Society.

Accusations, mistaken identities and romance run wild in this modern farce. Set in 1960s California, two nuns at the Sisters of Perpetual Sewing have been secretly making wine to keep the convent's doors open. But Paul and Sally, reporters and former fiancés, are hot on their trail, undercover as a nun and priest. Their presence, combined with the addition of a new nun, spurs paranoia through the convent that spies have been sent from Rome to shut them down. As with all farces, there's an improbable but hilarious story line, which centres around secrets that are spilt and lost

loves that reconnect, resulting in a very happy ending!

Directed by Judith Elmes, the cast features Lynn Windle, Gus Nichols, Karen O'Brien, Jessica Cox, Jilly McDonough, Michael Fogarty, Hannah Blair White and Patrick Byrne.

DRINKING HABITS by Tom Smith will run nightly at 8pm from 15th to 18th November inclusive. Tickets (€20) are available from Pavilion Theatre box office (01-231 2929) or www.paviliontheatre.ie (free booking on line). There's also a discount on group bookings of ten or more.



'Pathless Land'

An exhibition by Eleanor Dawson, Ashleigh Downey, Justyna Kosmulska and Sylvia Hill

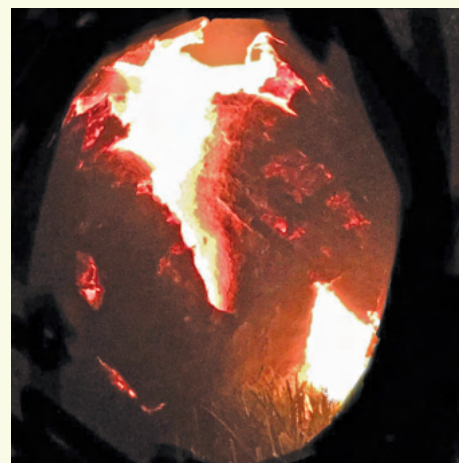
Signal Arts Centre, Monday 27th November to Sunday 10th December

This project is a collaborative, multidimensional process, begun in 2020 and in constant evolution. Coming from different disciplines and creative approaches, their metamorphic process explores the potential and power for transformation in a rapidly changing world. The artists spent time where they could in nature, and natural cycles became an inspiration, as well as the concept of creating collections from nature, so beloved of the Victorians.

The work comprises a 2-dimensional Victorian Hang including visual work from all four artists, a soundscape, a cabinet of curiosities and a collection of 3D objects.

This interactive workshop will create an intimate, meditative space. It will include live, improvised music as well as a deeper experience of the soundtrack, with opportunities for the public to respond creatively.

"Four key concepts represent our explorations: seed, egg, meander, and feminine energy. The work records our response to contemporary issues, and our dialogues as we got to know each other. By the end, each of us had contributed both visual and audio work to the final piece: a wonderful alchemy that leaves us all richer both as creative artists and as human beings."



'Molten Egg' by Sylvia Hill



'Seed Landscapes' by Ashleigh Downey

A Bronx Summer

A captivating tale of transformation and immigration by Frances Browner to launch on November 16th in Greystones library

An eagerly anticipated debut novel by writer Frances Browner, *A Bronx Summer* is set to captivate readers with its launch on Thursday, November 16th, at 6:45 pm, in Greystones Library. This literary tour de force, published by Revival Press, will be unveiled by respected poet and fellow Greystones resident, Paul T. Dillon.



Frances Browner

A Bronx Summer has been described as a wry, humorous, and authentic 'innocent abroad' narrative that delves into the emotional and sexual transformation of a young woman. In the vein of Colm Tóibín's *Brooklyn* with an 80s soundtrack, the novel explores a life left behind and the promise of a new one, vividly capturing the Irish experience in New York during their last significant wave of immigration to America.

In a local setting, the author believes that "this story, my first foray into novel-writing, will transport readers to a bygone era and make them reflect on the human experience of transformation, nostalgia, and the pursuit of new beginnings."

Frances Browner, originally from County Dublin and now a resident of Greystones, is a well-respected creative writing tutor with Dun Laoghaire/Dublin ETB and Greystones Cancer Support Centre. She is actively engaged in local arts and was awarded Greystones culture Person of the Year 2022. Browner's literary contributions have graced numerous journals, and she has a poetry collection, *Roots & Wings*, also published by Revival Press in 2019.

Don't miss the launch of *A Bronx Summer*, a nostalgic novel set in Bray, Dun Laoghaire, and New York, that promises to take readers on a transformative journey filled with humour, and the magic of new beginnings.

Join Frances Browner and Paul T. Dillon for an unforgettable evening of literary and musical celebration on November 16th, 2023, at 6:45 PM, at Greystones Library, Mill Road, Killincarrig, Greystones, Co. Wicklow.

RSVP to limerickwriterscentre@gmail.com.



Snapshots

An exhibition by Lisa Keegan

Signal Arts Centre, Bray, 13th-26th November

Lisa Keegan's 'Snapshots' series seeks to elevate the everyday, shining a spotlight on the often overlooked beauty of our urban surroundings. How often do you truly look around you or really notice the detail of a building or streetlamp?

"Capturing the essence of an area is central to my work," explains Lisa. "The 'Snapshots' series consists of vibrant yet minimalistic compilation paintings. These paintings use various panels to reflect different aspects and views of the built environment of a particular area. Using social media as well as traditional sketchbook methods allows me to incorporate the feeling for and views of an area, creating a work which is enduring as well as being immediate and current."

Opening Reception: Friday 17th November 2023, 7pm to 9pm



Book by local author hits bestseller list

The Inner CEO, written by Ashford based author, Shane Cradock, entered at #2 on The Irish Times Best-Seller list for paperback fiction the week before last. The book is about how to become the boss of your mind and Cradock shares his experience of over 30 years working as a coach and advisor to people across various fields, including business, sports and everyday life.

"It's amazing to see the book on the bestseller list. What's more exciting is the early feedback from readers on how accessible the book is, how easy it is to digest and that it's not just for business people," says Cradock.

He has worked with top leaders in companies like Apple, Prada, Louis Copeland, Sherry Fitzgerald and several Entrepreneur of The Year Finalists. The book weaves storytelling from his experience with memorable metaphors and profound insights.

The Inner CEO is available to buy at Bridge Street Books, Wicklow Town.

For more details go to www.theinnerceo.com



Shane Cradock with *The Inner CEO* book, at a launch event in Lennan's Yard, Dublin City.



Shane Cradock and Joanna Hamilton, owner of Bridge Street Books, Wicklow Town, at the official launch.

Stephen Davis - Navigator Musician in Residence

Rounding off a year of 7 residencies for jazz and improvising musicians in partnership with Arts Centres nationwide, through the Navigator programme, IMC are pleased to announce drummer and composer Stephen Davis as the musician in residence at The Courthouse in Tinahely this month.

The 10-day Navigator Jazz Residency programme was established in 2021, and since then 14 jazz & improvising musicians have enjoyed bespoke residencies through venue partners The Source Arts Centre, Thurles, Ballina Arts Centre and The Courthouse. NAVIGATOR offers jazz and improvising musicians professionally remunerated time and space to develop and perform work, while building creative and professional relationships in new locations.

Belfast-based drummer Stephen (DAKIZ) Davis mainly plays jazz and improvised music. He is the drummer in Anthony Braxton group 'The New Standard', and active in the UK and European improvised/creative music scenes. As well as Braxton he has worked with Mark Ribot, Evan Parker, Ralph Alessi, Kris Davis, Alexander Hawkins, John Taylor, Rufus Reid, Paul Dunmall, Django Bates, Van Morrison, Matthew Bourne and many others. He is a composer and has his own projects published on Babel Label London as well as Intakt records Switzerland. Steve is an assistant lecturer at Queen's University Belfast.

For the best part of a decade, Davis has been one third of heavyweight UK free-jazz trio, Bourne Davis Kane, alongside pianist Matthew Bourne and double-bassist Dave Kane, releasing several highly regarded CDs including collaborations with veteran British saxophonist Paul



Stephen Davis

Dunmall. He also leads the quartet, Human, featuring Alexander Hawkins, Alex Bonney and Dylan Bates, which released a debut album, Being Human, on Babel in 2013.

Stephen will spend time in Wicklow this November to develop his practice and engage with the local music community as part of IMC's Navigator Residency programme.

"This is a great opportunity for me to spend some time composing new music for large ensemble as well as developing my drumming technique, in terms of using electronics with acoustic drums," says Davis. "To have this time to work intensively will be fun. Thanks to Courthouse Arts Centre and IMC for providing this residency. I look forward to connecting with

the local community in Wicklow and getting inspired by the landscape there. I want to use my experience to inform the work and also to network with other artists."

Kieran O'Toole, Director at Courthouse Arts Centre said: "With Stephen Davis' residency here at the Courthouse Arts Centre in partnership with IMC, we are excited to give time and space for the development of Stephen's work in new and creative ways in this unique, rural setting in Co Wicklow, which has proved so inspiring for artists who have worked here before. We hope that connecting with the local community and establishing new musical partnerships will add new energies to Stephen's music."

The NAVIGATOR residency programme is part of IMC's commitment to further develop the national scene for jazz and improvised music, improve artist touring mobility, develop audiences nationwide, and develop creative opportunities and fruitful new relationships for musicians.

The 2023 Navigator jazz residency programme has been expanded to 7 partners across the island of Ireland, with Garter Lane, Waterford, Riverbank Theatre, Newbridge and Crescent Arts Centre, Belfast joining the initial 4 other partners. Three of the residencies are programmed from IMC's 30/30 programme and the other four residencies by an open call.



A tribute to Tony Bennet

A tribute to the legendary performer Tony Bennet will take place in the Whale Theatre on Saturday 25th November. Come along for an entertaining set of Tony Bennet's great hits including 'The Good Life,' 'The Best is Yet To Come,' and his signature song 'I Left My Heart In San Francisco.' Following their sold-out shows at the National Concert Hall, Cormac Kenevey (pictured) and the Cian Boylan Trio bring their production of Tony Bennet's great music and arrangements to Greystones. 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets €25 and available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550.



Anna Mieke

Wicklow's Anna Mieke shares new song 'Ornament'

Originally from Wicklow, Anna Mieke is a vocalist and multi-instrumentalist whose lyricism and enveloping compositions toe the line between folk forms and vivid dreamscapes, drawing on traditional and contemporary motifs.

The lyrically ornate and instrumental delicacy of her work, alongside flowing atmospheric arrangements creates a sound world that is distinctly her own. Her music is the surreal soundtrack of a vast personal plain steeped in nostalgia, family, memory, death and dreaming-where gritty reality and romanticism meet. This duality is the thematic core of her second album Theatre, released in 2022.

Following on from the album release, Anna shares a new song and video, 'Ornament'.

Speaking about the song, she says "Ornament was recorded during Theatre sessions but never made it onto the album. It didn't feel finished at the time and I wanted more time with it. I'm very happy to be finally releasing it. I've played this live quite a lot, so it may be familiar if you've been to a show of ours."

Giving some background to the song, she explains it as... "an observation on time, love,

passing on and the significance of what we leave behind after we go. How objects/places take on a whole new meaning and role after the person they were attached to isn't there anymore. Also a sort of looking at other lives lived and what could have been, not at all in a regretful way, just a curiosity in that. The song to me feels uplifting and outward-looking; the feeling of lightness that can come from a shift in perspective."

The song is accompanied by a video, directed by Véra Haddad, who says: "This video is in the thread of impressionism: we kept our cameras with us and used the idea of Ornament as our lens on the everyday. We found many connections to the details of the song lyrics and story by happenstance."

Anna Mieke's musical landscape developed from years of collaborations, performance and experimenting, during her time living in both Cork and Dublin. Early 2022 saw her headline tours across Spain, UK, Ireland

and further afield, with a week-long residency in New York (May 2022), collaborating with NYC-based musicians and composers. In February 2023, she and her band headed back to North America for a 16-date headline tour, followed by support tours with Florist and Iron and Wine across Europe and the US. In recent years, she has also toured with and supported acts including Wilco, Anaïs Mitchell, Lankum and Bonny Light Horseman. She has performed at The Edinburgh Fringe Festival and collaborated with Crash Ensemble, Linda Buckley and Adrian Crowley. Outside of her solo material, Anna Mieke played cello with HEX, a Cork-based improvisatory group, and developed her vocals as one-third of the singing trio, Rufous Nightjar, both of which allowed her to further explore sound manipulation, improvisation and complex harmonic arrangements.

Theatre, which she recorded + co-produced with Nick

Rayner and features contributions from long-standing bandmates Ryan Hargadon (Kojaque) and Matthew Jacobson (UMBRA), as well as Rozi Leyden (Rozi Plain), Brian Mac Gloinn (Ye Vagabonds), Lina Andonovska, Alannah Thornburgh and Cora Venus Lunny, was released in 2022 and received praise from The Guardian, Brooklyn Vegan and MOJO among others. Uncut praised the album as "beguiling and really rather wonderful" while the Revue described the songs as having "a combination of Agnes Obel's symphonic experimentation and Aldous Harding's lyrical creativity...an artist who brilliantly incorporates fantasy, and mysticism into music". Theatre was nominated for Album of the Year (2022) in Ireland's 'Choice Awards'.

Anna Mieke returns to North America this month, for her second headline tour there since the release of Theatre, as well as a support tour with Flyte.

Hyundai IONIQ 6 wins Continental Irish Car of the Year title for 2024

The Hyundai IONIQ 6 was named as the 2024 Irish Car of the Year in association with Continental Tyres. Members of the Motoring Media Association of Ireland (MMAI), the grouping that brings together some 35 of Ireland's most experienced motoring journalists, hosted the awards event attended by Ireland's leading car brands, importers and distributors.

By Martin McCarthy

The awards were voted on by the members of the MMAI who individually assess each new car model that is launched in Ireland each year.

Chairman of the MMAI, Joe Rayfus said: "Congratulations to Hyundai Ireland on taking the coveted Irish Car of the Year title for the IONIQ 6, a very worthy winner indeed."

What more concrete proof can there be that the era of electric motoring is truly here. Our fourth straight winner of the title. And look at the evolution of vehicles in that time, electric models have gone fully mainstream and luxury as this IONIQ 6 proves."

Tom Dennigan of awards sponsor, Continental Tyres said: "The Hyundai IONIQ 6 is a really stylish car at the forefront of automotive design. I am sure that our Irish Car of the Year title will be a huge boost to the nameplate's profile with Irish motorists who are considering making the move to electric."

The Irish Car of the Year category winners:

- Irish Small / Compact Car of the Year: MG4 EV
- Irish Small / Compact SUV of the Year: BYD Atto 3
- Irish Medium SUV of



The Hyundai IONIQ 6 was named as the 2024 Irish Car of the Year



BYD Atto 3, the Irish Small / Compact SUV of the Year

the Year: Renault Austral
• Irish Medium / Large

Car of the Year: Hyundai IONIQ 6

- Irish Large SUV / MPV of the Year: Nissan X-TRAIL
- Irish Luxury Car of the Year: BMW i7 / 7 Series
- Irish Performance Car of the Year: BMW M2

In the Irish Van of the Year awards programme for 2024, the Ford Ranger Raptor took the category award for Irish Commercial SUV of the Year, while the overall Irish Van of the Year 2024 in association with Continental Tyres award was bestowed on the Mercedes-Benz Citan.

Especially noteworthy is that for the first time ever, a new brand was a category winner.

BYD, imported by MDL (also Mercedes distributors) was the Irish Compact SUV of the year. Many BYD Attos have been sold in Wicklow this year, with the year end sales in Ireland heading for over 600 units compared to zero last year!

Watch this space - BYD will add two new models in the coming months.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Significant Information/Revised Plans

I hereby give notice of the submission of significant further information to Wicklow County Council in relation to planning application ref no: 23/60249 for Harold Craston & Sara Fawsitt who is applying for permission for the development at 3 The Poplars, Delgany, County Wicklow, A63 N276 which consists of the (A) Sub division of the site and the construction of a new detached two storey four-bedroom dwelling.
(B) Provision of connection into foul drain for the new house.
(C) Provision of surface water soakaway to meet BRE Digest 365 standards for the new detached house.
(D) Provision to relocate a shared vehicular entrance driveway accessing new detached dwelling.
(E) All associated site development works, drainage and landscaping to accommodate new dwelling.
Significant further information/revised plans have been furnished to the planning authority in respect of the proposed development, and are available for inspection or purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council during its public opening hours. A submission or observations in relation to the further information or revised plans may be made in writing to the planning authority within the period of 2 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the revised notices. A submission or observation must be accompanied by the prescribed fee except in the case of a person or body who has already made a submission or observation.
Applicants should refer to Article 35 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2011.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Significant Information/Revised Plans

I hereby give notice of the submission of significant further information to Wicklow County Council in relation to planning application ref no: 23/444 for Aisling O Leary who is applying for permission at Shelton, Beach Road, Arklow, Co. Wicklow. Significant further information/revised plans have been furnished to the planning authority in respect of the proposed development and are available for inspection or purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council during its public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to the further information or revised plans may be made in writing to the planning authority within the period of 2 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the revised notices. A submission or observation must be accompanied by the prescribed fee except in the case of a person or body who has already made a submission or observation.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

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PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Significant Information/Revised Plans

We, Davin Murphy & Yvonne Lawlor seek permission for construction of a new dwelling and garage, new access, installation of a wastewater treatment plant, percolation area and all associated site works at Merginstown, Dunlavin, 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

Significant Information/Revised Plans

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

Significant Information/Revised Plans

Novara Construction Company Limited seeks Retention Planning Permission for (1) the existing boundary fencing enclosure to the front external area and (2) the existing fixed covered canopy structure to the front of the ground floor cafe unit, at a protected structure at No. 5A Goldsmith Terrace, 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.

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WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Significant Information/Revised Plans

We, Irish Prison Service, intend to apply for 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, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, together with ducting, underground electrical cabling, and all associated site works. The proposed development is within the curtilage of a protected structure (RPS No. 40-05) listed under the current Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

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RECRUITMENT



St Patrick's Missionary Society care facility located in Kiltegan offers a friendly and relaxed environment for its members and staff, all of whom are highly valued and respected. We are recruiting for a fulltime permanent:

SOCIAL CARE LEADER

Person Specification Essential:

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- Excellent communicator both verbally and written.
- Good working knowledge of the Health Act 2007 in relation to members in a long-term care facility.

Desirable:

- Has at least a minimum of 1 years' experience working in a similar role.

Closing Date for Applications: 21st November 2023.

We offer excellent terms and conditions of employment for the right candidate.

Log onto our website www.spms.org/vacancies for a detailed job description and details how to apply. For informal queries please contact Dearbhail McKee, HR Manager at 059 6484434 or email hrmanager@spms.ie

St Patrick's Missionary Society is an inclusive employer.

ATTENTION

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Wicklow communities encouraged to 'step up together' for GOAL mile

AIB, partner of the GOAL Mile, has teamed up with Kilkenny hurling captain Eoin Cody, former Tyrone footballer, Sean Cavanagh, Paralympian, Greta Streimikyte, Irish chef and bestselling author, Trisha Lewis and TV presenters Katja Mia and Judy Gilroy, to encourage communities in Wicklow and all over the island of Ireland to 'Step Up Together' and take part in the GOAL Mile this Christmas.

Since 1982, the GOAL Mile has seen tens of thousands of people run or walk a mile (just 2,000 steps) to raise funds for GOAL over Christmas. The GOAL Mile raises funds to support GOAL's work with vulnerable communities in 13 countries across Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, and Europe. Once again, this year AIB is encouraging communities from all over the island of Ireland to 'Step Up Together' by registering and taking part in the Christmas tradition of the GOAL Mile with their friends and families.

AIB, proud sponsor of AIB GAA All Ireland Football Championship is especially calling on GAA Clubs nationwide to host their own GOAL

Mile as they have done in previous years demonstrating the incredible spirit of togetherness in clubs the length and breadth of the country.

People can get involved in a number of different ways, such as taking part in one of the 150+ GOAL Mile events being organised in Ireland and internationally or simply by registering with GOAL at www.goalmile.org and completing a mile in any place, at any time during the month of December.

AIB is committed to supporting sustainable communities, and by supporting the GOAL Mile this Christmas, AIB helps GOAL reach the world's most vulnerable communities already suffering deeply from

the impact of climate change, poverty, hunger, and conflict.

Speaking at the launch of this year's campaign, AIB CEO, Colin Hunt said, "Sustainability is a key strategic priority for AIB. The floods and fires we witnessed around the world this year have reminded us once again that tackling climate change is the major challenge facing our generation. We're delighted to support GOAL and the GOAL Mile again this year, as it's one of Ireland's largest humanitarian response agencies, working with global communities deeply impacted by climate change, poverty, hunger, and conflict. Taking part in the GOAL Mile this Christmas will help



to provide support to those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change."

GOAL CEO, Siobhan Walsh said, "For the past two years, we have worked with AIB and are delighted to have them as partners again in 2023. The GOAL Mile, proudly supported by AIB, is GOAL's biggest annual fundraiser and as such, plays a really important role in enabling our humanitarian response work with the world's most vulnerable communities.

"By coming together in their communities and taking just 2,000 steps people can do their part to help others around the world. This year, it is estimated that 364.6 million people around the world are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance and facing extreme challenges. Therefore, we appeal to people across Ireland to 'Step Up Together', to enable us in our efforts to improve the lives of those affected by conflict and crises."

People and communities in

Wicklow can 'Step Up Together' to take part in the GOAL Mile by visiting www.goalmile.org. There are over 150 GOAL Mile events due to take place across the island of Ireland this year. People and communities can also sign-up to organise a new event, or pledge to take their 2,000 steps at any time throughout the month of December, sharing their experiences on their social media channels. Donations to GOAL can be made at www.goal-global.org/donate.

Play your part in the world's largest running event

Irish runners and wheelchair users will join hundreds of thousands of people across the globe next year to take part in the Wings for Life World Run 2024. Registrations officially opened today for the 11th edition of the largest and most inclusive running event in the world, which takes place on Sunday May 5th, 2024.

The run is an opportunity for runners of all levels to run separately for a united cause, with 100% of all funds raised going straight to spinal cord research at the not-for-profit Wings for Life foundation.

The unique race format means runners and wheelchair users on every corner of the globe take part at the same time. While each participant will set their own pace, with

their own goals, they will all contribute to the same cause of helping to find a cure for spinal cord injury. The Wings for Life World Run App makes it easy to run just about anywhere, and is available to download via iOS or Android.

Whether they run, roll in a wheelchair, jog or simply walk, every participant in the Wings for Life World Run starts at exactly the same moment,

11.00am UTC (12.00pm Irish Time). But they don't run toward the finish line as they run away from it. Participants are chased by the event's signature Catcher Car, which gives them a 30-minute head start. When this moving finish line passes them, they've successfully completed their race, until the last man and woman to be caught are named the global champions. The Catcher Car format means that the Wings for Life World Run is the only race worldwide where everyone who starts will finish.

In a first for the event and as part of a new partnership with leading sports brand adidas, everyone who registers no matter where or how they choose to run - will receive the official Wings for Life World Run t-shirt to help

them get ready as part of the €25 entry fee. The special commemorative design from adidas will let everyone know the wearer is running for those who can't. With nearly 75% of spinal cord injuries resulting from everyday occurrences like car accidents and falls, it can happen to anyone.

Since the first Wings for Life World Run in 2014, the event has so far raised over €43.8 million, with 1,293,716 registered participants covering 11,839,989 kilometers in over 195 countries across all seven continents. The 2023 edition alone drew a record 206,728 participants, and the aim for 2024 is to surpass that benchmark with even more people taking part. The event is the primary

fundraiser for the not-for-profit Wings for Life foundation, which funds promising spinal cord research and clinical trials.

Breakthroughs from these studies are already changing lives, so going for a run on a single day in May really can make a difference in the search

for a cure.

The Wings for Life World Run starts simultaneously around the world at 11.00am UTC / 12.00pm Irish time on Sunday, May 5th, 2024. Play your part in making this year's event the biggest yet by registering via www.wingsforlifeworldrun.com.

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