

LOCAL Wicklow Times

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DISABILITY STRATEGY
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MAGHERAMORE
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DELGANY PLAN
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Tuesday 21st November 2023 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

SUPERDUMP HASN'T GONE AWAY

Fearing that the door is still open for a potential new application for a 'super dump' at Ballinclare Quarry in South Wicklow, some councillors are urging Wicklow County Council to do all it can to prevent this by making a submission to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). However, the thinking among council officials appears to be that this is not within the Council's remit.

Raising the matter at this month's meeting of Wicklow County Council, Independent councillor Mary Kavanagh said people living near the quarry are "very, very concerned" that Kilsaran Concrete have "a golden ticket for a second application" for what would be the largest landfill in the State.

Kilsaran lodged the application for a waste licence in February, and it was refused by An Bord Pleanála in September. "On the 3rd of March, the EPA wrote to Wicklow County Council, notifying them of the application and requesting the Council to respond to the agency within four weeks of

receipt of the notice, and furnish any observations they may have. To date, no submission from Wicklow County Council has been lodged on the EPA's website," said Cllr Kavanagh. The application was for over 6 million tonnes of inert waste to be brought to the quarry over a period of up to 20 years.



Pictured at BIFE's graduation ceremony were David O'Gorman, BIFE Deputy Principal Gabriel Allen, Cllr Tom Fortune, Dr Deirdre Keyes, Chief Executive of the Kildare & Wicklow Education & Training Board, BIFE Principal Ray Tedders, Louise Fortune and Ross Lee. See page 12. Pic: Michael Kelly

Independent councillor Joe Behan asked Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Emer O'Gorman if there is any connection between the proposed landfill and the illegal Whitestown dump in west Wicklow. "Is there any suggestion, or do you have any knowledge that there is some proposal somewhere to use this particular proposed landfill, if it ever gets permission, as the place to deposit the Whitestown rubbish?" he asked.

Continuing, Cllr. Behan said: "As far as the local people are concerned, we are not doing our duty as a Council when we don't take on board the concerns that those people have already expressed. And while the EPA has ultimate responsibility, there is a route for us to make our submissions

known as a Council. And it does appear that, on this occasion, the senior management of Wicklow County Council have decided they're going to let this one pass. Why? Why is this happening? Is there something else going on here that we are not being told? I think we should get the full, absolute and total truth."

The Chief Executive said "I have no knowledge of any plan to move waste from Whitestown to that quarry site. It's not ideal to move waste from one location to another. Whitestown, as you're aware, is currently subject to legal proceedings, and a plan has to be put in place where we have to remediate the site. But there are no plans, to my knowledge, to move any waste from Whitestown to any other location."

Speaking at the meeting, Cllr Kavanagh said "I want to clarify that inert waste is not harm-

less waste. It's waste that cannot disintegrate naturally, and includes glass, plaster, metal,

wood and concrete, such as is found in brownfield sites.

Continued on page 3



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Rosie Callaghan

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Have you considered clinical hypnotherapy?

Rosie Callaghan is originally from Killybegs, Co. Donegal. She is a mother of two and has vast experience working with young people both in the clinic and also as a Music Teacher before becoming a Clinical Hypnotherapist.

Rosie spent two years helping her Canadian clients reprogramme their minds at her Ontario Hypnosis Clinic before coming back to Cabinteely in 2020.

Rosie is very passionate about working with young people and their mental health. She believes that by working out their mental health problems early, whether they be depression, anxiety or weight issues, they will be able to experience their teenage years positively instead of fighting them and ultimately having to change things later in life. Clearing their heads of negative thoughts when they are young, will encourage them to reach for the stars and achieve the absolute best version of themselves and not wonder later "If only I was happy when I was young and had the confidence to do X, Y and Z."

Rosie has vast experience working with clients both in Canada and Ireland with PTSD, Post Natal Depression, Anxiety, Sexual abuse victims, Smokers, Weight Loss, Tinnitus, Insomnia and many more.

Rosie specialises in Weight Loss, Anxiety and Depression. She



Rosie Callaghan

is the owner of Irish Hypnosis Cabinteely and the Weight Loss Clinic. She has a strong passion for helping people.

She is also a professional singer with experience of performing as a soloist with large Orchestras in Canada and in front of large numbers of people and she can help you get the confidence you need to perform on your instrument as she

understands how the fear of negative judgment from others can hold people back from performing to their best ability.

She can help you reprogramme your subconscious mind to not be worrying about what other people think as you perform and therefore allowing yourself to be the best musician and performer you can be. This confidence is not limited to musicians!

It can be used in all paths of life. Each programme is tailored to suit the individual needs of each client.

Rosie is also very enthusiastic about sport and plays Club Basketball in South Dublin. She can help you improve your focus in any sport. She can help you improve on your tactics and increase your motivation for fitness and eating well. Rosie is extremely passionate about mental wellness.

She believes she can help you live life to the full and not be looking back on the past.

It's a matter of hitting the emotional reset button within your subconscious mind. Life is for living today!

Local Open Days for national training provider

To mark College Awareness Week, National Learning Network (NLN), the education and training division of the Rehab Group, is hosting a National Open Day across its centres from 11am on Thursday, November 23rd. This eagerly anticipated event will unfold across many NLN centres nationwide, serving as a cornerstone celebration for National College Awareness Week.

In Wicklow, the NLN Open Days will be held at two locations: NLN Arklow, Briggs Lane, Ferrybank, Arklow and also at NLN Bray, Beechwood Close, Boghall Road.

College Awareness Week aims to promote the benefits of a post-secondary education plan for everyone.

It is supported by the National Association of Principals, Deputy Principals, and other organisations such as the Union of Students in Ireland and the Irish Union of Second-Level Students. NLN, with a presence in over 50 locations across Ireland, is a progressive leader in delivering personalised education, training, and development opportunities throughout Irish communities for people with disabilities or people requiring additional support.

NLN's certified training courses have significantly impacted the progression of people with disabilities and health conditions into further education and employment. More than 1,653 NLN students have gone on to further education since 2020, and an additional 950 have been supported to find jobs. Some participants, who were previously locked out of the jobs market, have landed jobs in a range of companies such as

Meta, Cook Medical and Mr. Price and across the hospitality and tourism industry.

People attending National Learning Network include those claiming any form of disability benefit, autistic people, those recovering from an accident or injury, or those living with mental health challenges, or learning disabilities.

NLN each year also supports hundreds of people with complex and enduring mental health issues through a programme called Individual Placement and Support (IPS). IPS helps people who would have otherwise met with barriers to the employment market to find work in mainstream competitive jobs.

The service is currently supporting 329 participants, 89 of whom are working and being supported to maintain their jobs. NLN is particularly attuned to the needs of those who find traditional post-school study routes challenging, including individuals with autism or those who may struggle in larger class settings.

The NLN Open Day will welcome individuals who may benefit from a supported training course, from school-leavers aged 16 up to

adults of all ages. Our dedicated staff collaborates with employers to match students with the right roles, fostering a supportive personal and professional growth environment.

Director of Learning at National Learning Network, Lucianne Bird, said: "We are delighted to be part of a nationwide campaign to promote the importance of post-secondary education, particularly for people with disabilities or those who need a little support to achieve their goals. People with disabilities experience multiple barriers to accessing and sustaining employment, including access and infrastructural barriers, poverty traps, negative stereotypical perceptions, and limited progressive education opportunities. NLN advocates for students to have the choice to pursue the course best suited to their interests, abilities, and dreams. We feel passionately about how NLN works for people for whom traditional post school routes simply do not work. We are a pathway for people to access further and third level education, apprenticeships, and employment. At NLN, we believe no one should be left behind, and this is what our inclusive, equitable education and training model is all about."



On Sunday 12th November a service was held at the County Wicklow World War One Memorial at Woodenbridge to remember the one thousand three hundred persons from County Wicklow who directly lost their lives in the Great War of 1914-18 and the many maimed and injured who lived thereafter. A wreath was laid and historian Pat Power gave a short memorial address recalling the tragic short life of John James Walker, aged 21, formerly of Kildare Cottage in Wicklow town who was killed in the Battle of Mons on August 25 1914. He was the first fatal casualty of the estimated 1,300 who directly perished in the four and a half year long conflict. After the address a minute's silence and reflection time was observed.

St. Anne's Parish Christmas Fair

The St. Anne's Parish Christmas Fair will take place from 10am to 3pm on Sunday November 26th in St. Anne's Resource Centre (beside St. Anne's Church), Dublin Road, Shankill. There will be a Cake Stall, Festive Stalls, Hand Crafted Cards, Cosmetics, Arts and Crafts, Wheel of Fortune, Bottle Stall, and Santa Claus. Tickets in the monster raffle will be drawn at 2.30 p.m. All are welcome.

Old Dublin Society

Peadar Curran will present 'Letters from America' at 6pm on Wednesday November 22nd in the Conference Room of Dublin City Library & Archive, 144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2. All are welcome - admission is free and no booking is required. The AGM of the Society will follow this presentation - all members are requested to attend the AGM.

Laragh Christmas Tree Lights

It's that time of year again when organizers of the Laragh Christmas lights need the community's support to help continue the amazing Laragh Christmas Lights and Parade. They said "We are so grateful to everyone who supported our table quiz and to the people and businesses who have given donations already. We look forward to seeing you all on the 2nd December for the turn on of our lights. For those kindly asking where to donate see <https://www.gofundme.com/f/rvpjw-laragh-christmas-lights>

Rewilding Wicklow

Rewilding Wicklow would like to work collaboratively with Laragh & Glendalough Tidy Towns to plant trees in and around the community. Please let them know your ideas as to where these trees might be planted. All suggestions are welcome.

Bray Lions Charity Auction

Bray Lions Club Christmas Charity Auction for local families takes place in The Wild Goose, Bray on Thursday 30th November at 9pm. More than 100 gift items, artworks and vouchers will be knocked down to bidders and great bargains are guaranteed. Don't miss this evening of bargains and craic.

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.

Wicklow Library

Film Club presents The Quiet Girl (An Cailin Cuim). Wednesday 22nd, 7pm. No need to book. Must have My Open Library accessibility.
Yarn Storytelling, Thursday 23rd, 6:30-7:30pm. Booking no required.
Irish Conversation Group - All Levels (especially beginners). Thursday 25th, 3-4pm. No need to book.

Birdwatch Ireland outing

Saturday 25th November. Outing to Cahore, Co. Wexford 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.

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.

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Zero refurbishment grants drawn down

Sinn Fein TD John Brady has called on the Minister for Housing, Darragh O'Brien, to urgently review the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant as figures show that no refurbishment grants have been drawn down in County Wicklow since the scheme opened in April 2022.

Deputy Brady said: "These new figures show that the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant scheme is deeply flawed. In the 18 months since the scheme opened no refurbishment grants have been drawn down in Wicklow. This isn't good enough. People in Wicklow affected by the housing crisis need to see an ambitious and workable plan that will deliver homes locally."

"When it was launched last year, Minister O'Brien had not engaged with mortgage lenders. As a result, applicants were unable to draw down their mortgages or grant until issues between the pillar banks and Department of Housing were resolved early this year."

"The scheme has also been heavily criticised by applicants as the grant is paid in arrears, meaning that applicants have to front-up the money and claim the grant after the works have been completed and paid for. In many cases,

applicants in Wicklow do not have this cash up front and this is a barrier to accessing the funding. The scheme is also chronically underfunded at just €30 million for 2023, and a similar amount for 2024, resulting in an annual target of just over 200 homes to be brought back into use each year."

"Sinn Fein has put forward a much more ambitious proposal for bringing vacant and derelict properties back into use. Through increased capital funding to Local Authorities, we want to see up to 4000 vacant and derelict properties bought and refurbished by Local Authorities and Approved Housing Bodies for social, affordable rental and affordable purchase housing."

"We would also continue the current grant model via local authorities as set out in our alternative budget document. Government must be much more ambitious when it comes to tackling dereliction and vacancy."



Elena King, Brandon King, Lauren Jane Martin and Ava O'Reilly at the BIFE graduation ceremony. See more page 12.

SUPERDUMP HASN'T GONE AWAY

Continued from page 1

"There are also many contaminants found in brownfield sites, including lead, arsenic, potassium, iron and other metals. Asbestos is also present in the existing quarry rock, and these are potential leachates. And leachates are materials which, with heavy rainfall, will run off groundwater into the quarry and

will build up until it overtops the side walls. This can cause severe or catastrophic contamination to local surface waters and groundwaters."

"There's also a risk that contaminants could leach into the nearby Potters River, which flows to a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) at Brittas Bay and potentially contaminate the soil, the

water and the ecology of the area. So, these are the reasons why the residents and other people, including myself, are very concerned."

Also speaking on the matter Arklow councillor Peir Leonard said "the residents that are there are the ones that end up having to pay the price. I would urge Wicklow County Council to real-

ly come on board with trying to protect them."

Breege Kilkenny, Director of Services at Wicklow County Council, said "the assessment of a licence application is really a matter for the EPA, who have the expertise, and it is their role in relation to the control of such facilities and the protection of the environment. Wicklow County

Council submitted the Chief Executive report to An Bord Pleanála at the time of the application and at that stage, the report coming from the CE concluded that the proposed development was in compliance with proper planning and sustainable development, and the internal reports that came from the various sections, including the environment section, was used to inform that report, and did not raise any concerns. In terms of whether Wicklow County Council

responded the EPA's consultation notice: We didn't because we normally don't. It is the EPA who have that remit."

Adding to that, Chief Executive Emer O'Gorman said "The fact that it hasn't been granted planning permission is a big full stop on that application in my view. I don't know what the EPA will take into consideration, but I can't see how they would give a permit for a site that hasn't got planning permission. That wouldn't make any sense to me at all."



MINISTER Simon



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WORKING FOR WICKLOW

FINE GAEL

Council scoops four awards at 'Community Oscars'

Four community groups from Wicklow were successful at the National Pride of Place awards on Friday 10th November.

These annual awards are known as the Oscars for community groups and they highlight the tremendous work being done by community groups all over the island of Ireland. The presentation ceremony was held in Armagh this year.

The village of Hollywood won Gold in the Population 0-500 category while Avoca Village won Silver in the Population Category 500- 1500. Greystones Tidy Towns also won Silver in the Creative Place Category and Rewild Wicklow took home Gold in the Special Award category.

Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, who attended the event, congratulated all involved and remarked that: "This is an absolutely fabulous achievement for the county and I couldn't be prouder of all the people involved who made this happen. To see all Four Wicklow nominees on the podium and bringing home two Gold and two Silver awards against very

tough competition from across the island of Ireland was one of my proudest days as Cathaoirleach of the Council.

Wicklow County Council Chief Executive, Emer O'Gorman, said she was very proud of the four nominees stating: "It is a wonderful achievement for these groups and it acknowledges the fantastic work they have done in their communities."

She extended her wholehearted congratulations to all the local volunteers and groups who were involved in the competition.

Sponsored by IPB Insurance, the Pride of Place competition was initiated 21 years ago though a Co-operation Ireland programme to acknowledge the invaluable work undertaken by volunteers and those involved in local community development.

The Pride of Place competition has grown into the largest competition recognising community development achievements on the island of Ireland.



Emma Lyons, Hollywood Village; Liz Dillon, Greystones Tidy Towns; Brian Kennedy, Sean Warde, Avoca Village; Tommy Tutty, Hollywood Village; Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council; Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Cathaoirleach, Wicklow County Council; Michael Nicholson, Director of Services, Wicklow County Council; Caroline Fox, A/Senior Executive Officer, Wicklow County Council and Sandra Warde, Avoca Village.

Council launches Disability & Inclusion strategy

Wicklow's first ever Disability and Inclusion Strategy has been launched. Wicklow County Council's Disability and Inclusion Steering Committee (DISC) has been working towards this launch since the committee was established in 2020.

The Strategy outlines the various ways that Wicklow County Council and its partners intend to make the services they provide equitable and accessible to all. It aims to ensure that persons with a disability have an equal opportunity to pursue their ambitions, realise their potential and live fulfilling lives.

It also seeks to build on the progress made by Wicklow County Council and many other partner agencies and individuals.

Public consultations took place around the county and online to help inform the drafting of the Strategy. A questionnaire was also posted on Wicklow County Council's website to allow for public contributions.

These consultations identified three Action Areas to address the issues raised throughout the consultation process:

1. Participation, Communication and Rights.
2. Community Participation, Accessibility & Universal Design.
3. Employment, Housing and Recreation.

Individual actions are aligned to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Person's with Disabilities throughout the document.

Wicklow County Council, in partnership with the Disability Inclusion Steering Committee (DISC), will undertake a leadership role to progress actions in the strategy alongside staff from across every depart-

ment in the local authority.

Welcoming the Strategy, the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, said: "Wicklow County Council is proud to be a leader in making the services we provide accessible to all. Too often disabled people can be excluded from doing the everyday things, we take for granted. This Strategy offers a clear plan of action for ensuring everyone is included and has equal access to our services."

Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, stated: "The Strategy reflects the Council's strong commitment to working with disabled people and their families.

"The number of people with a disability in County Wicklow has increased from 13.5 per cent of the population in 2016 to 23 per cent in the most recent 2022 census. The statistics show that disability impacts every community across our county and we need our services and public spaces to reflect that."

The launch, which took place in the Arlow Bay Hotel, was well attended and included many of those involved in bringing the strategy to life. The event also included short presentations as well as music to celebrate everything the group has achieved so far. Therese Cahill, a self-professed 'limp-up' comedian, penned a parody song for the occasion and family band 'Classic Harmony', who are classically trained and visual-



Leona Doyle, Senior Operations Manager at Sunbeam House Services, with Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, and Cllr Melanie Corrigan, Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District.


ly impaired musicians, also performed.

Cllr Miriam Murphy, who is a founding member of DISC, said: "The reason I became a Councillor is because I felt that people were

making decisions about where I went, what I wanted to do, where to live, where to go to the pub, and everything else, and these people didn't know me. I felt I had to be at the table to help

with these decisions." As well as launching the strategy, Cllr Murphy said she hoped the event would help promote DISC's work across the county and encourage more disabled people to

get involved. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the strategy or who would like to find out more about DISC, can contact disability@wicklowcoc.ie.




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Wicklow County Council's Disability and Inclusion Steering Committee (DISC) launching the Disability & Inclusion Strategy

Ruby Mc's

Welcome to Ruby Mcs, a whimsical and vibrant eatery created by Ruby Mc, a 12-year-old girl with a passion for all things colorful and fun as well as animals. At Ruby Mcs we believe in creating a joyful and inclusive space where everyone, including our furry friends, can come together to enjoy delicious food and create lasting memories.

One of the unique features of Ruby Mcs Diner is our **dog-friendly policy**. We understand that dogs are an important part of many families, and we welcome them with open arms. Bring your four-legged companions along and let them enjoy a special treat from our dog-friendly menu while you indulge in our delectable offerings.

Speaking of indulgence, our menu is a delightful mix of sweet and savory treats that are sure to satisfy any craving. Start your day with a full breakfast or brunch featuring classics like fluffy pancakes, crispy bacon, and perfectly cooked eggs. For those with a sweet tooth, our waffles, crêpes, and Taiyaki or slushies are a must-try. And don't forget to save room for dessert! Our ice cream creations are a feast for the eyes and the taste buds.

At Ruby Mcs we believe in using high-quality ingredients to create dishes that are as visually appealing as they are delicious. We take pride in sourcing local and fresh ingredients whenever possible, supporting our community and ensuring the best flavors in every bite.

But Ruby Mcs is more than just a place to eat. It's a place to connect, have fun, and embrace the joy of being young at heart. Our colorful and playful decor sets the stage for a memorable dining experience, where laughter and good times are always on the menu.

So, whether you're looking for a delightful breakfast, a tasty treat, or a place to spend quality time with loved ones, Ruby Mcs is the perfect destination. Join us in celebrating the creativity and passion of Ruby Mcs as we embark on this colorful and delicious journey together.



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| | |
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| RUBY MC'S BREAKIE CREPE <small>(made publicly open, individual egg waffles, add local beef)</small> | €12.50 |
| PANCAKES STACK <small>(two, three, or four pancakes with syrup or the color-coded creamer of toppings or both your choice)</small> | €11.50 |
| THE BRAY-HEAD BELLY BUSTER <small>(10 waffles, 2 turkey/bacon rashers and 2 eggs creamed/cheese/peas, white potatoes, hard-boiled, hard-boiled, scrambled eggs and more)</small> | €14.95 |
| BREAKFAST WAFFLE SAMBO <small>(two waffles, fried egg, ham and cheese)</small> | €10.50 |
| FRENCH TOAST <small>(includes: topped in butter and served with powdered and syrupy sauce)</small> | €11.95 |
| HAM AND CHEESE OMELETTE <small>(made with cheese, ham, and eggs with a side of hash)</small> | €10.50 |
| RUBY MC'S PLATTER <small>(two egg breakfast, 2 eggs, 2 croques, 2 waffles, and 2 large pastries)</small> | €14.95 |
| 2 EGG BREAKFAST <small>(2 eggs, your choice of waffle, waffle with hash)</small> | €9.50 |
| CROQUE MONSIEUR <small>(goat cheese, ham, and cheese cream sauce, topped with béchamel)</small> | €12.95 |
| CROQUE MADAME <small>(goat cheese, ham, and cheese cream sauce, topped with béchamel)</small> | €14.95 |

BREAKFAST • BRUNCH

BUT I AM TRYING TO BE GOOD

| | |
|--|--------|
| SWEET PROTEIN PANCAKES <small>(served with fresh fruit, maple syrup and honey drizzle)</small> | €11.95 |
| PROTEIN BREAKFAST <small>(if protein powder, use your choice, use egg or plant)</small> | €11.95 |
| PORRIDGE <small>(served with fresh fruit, maple syrup, and a dash of honey)</small> | €7.50 |
| EGGS BENEDICT & ASPARAGUS <small>(if protein powder, use your choice, use egg or plant)</small> | €9.95 |
| POACHED EGGS <small>(with mixed greens)</small> | €13.50 |
| BUILD YOUR OWN OMELETTE <small>(includes 2 waffles, hash, and your choice of toppings)</small> | €12.95 |
| KIDS BACON & EGGS <small>(if you wish, add a side of hash)</small> | €5.95 |
| KIDS PEANUT BUTTER BANANA ROLLUP <small>(if you wish, add a side of hash)</small> | €5.95 |
| KIDS PANCAKES <small>(if you wish, add a side of hash)</small> | €6.95 |
| KIDS SHARING PLATTER <small>(if you wish, add a side of hash)</small> | €13.95 |
| KIDS FRENCH TOAST <small>(served with fresh fruit)</small> | €4.95 |

BUT I AM TRYING TO BE GOOD • KIDS

| | |
|---|-------|
| CREPE <small>(SWEET/HEALTHY/VEGAN)</small> | €6.50 |
| BUTTERFLY <small>(SWEET/HEALTHY/VEGAN)</small> | €6.50 |
| MINI <small>(SWEET/HEALTHY/VEGAN)</small> | €6.50 |
| COMFORT CREPE <small>(SWEET/HEALTHY/VEGAN)</small> | €7.50 |
| BBQ <small>(SWEET/HEALTHY/VEGAN)</small> | €7.50 |
| BUT TWIST <small>(SWEET/HEALTHY/VEGAN)</small> | €7.50 |
| ICE CREAM SAUCE ... €0.50 | |
| SUNDAE <small>(SMALL / REGULAR) WAFFLE (€9.95)</small> | |
| CHOC OVERLOAD <small>(SWEET/HEALTHY/VEGAN)</small> | |
| ESPRESSO YOURSELF <small>(SWEET/HEALTHY/VEGAN)</small> | |
| CAKE ... (SEE COUNTER) | |
| TAIYAKI (FISH SHAPED WAFFLE) ... €8 | |
| CAKE ... (SEE COUNTER) | |

TREATS



Deputy Steven Matthews at Magheramore

Magheramore appeal decision delayed

The decision by An Bord Pleanala on the appeal by developers against a refusal to allow a tourism development to go ahead at Magheramore has been delayed.

Green Party TD Deputy Steven Matthews said the Board wrote to him and said they could not provide the decision within the statutory timeframe of 18 weeks due to a backlog of cases, and will now issue a decision by February 6th, 2024.

Deputy Matthews said, "Earlier this year Wicklow County Council refused permission to Creatively Pacific Ltd for a boutique holiday resort at the ecologically sensitive Magheramore beach, a Special Area of Conservation. The firm appealed the decision and I submitted an observation on the appeal, having made a lengthy submission on the original planning application.

"I feel the proposed development is completely unsuitable for the protected area and falls foul of our obligations to protect this special area of conservation. I am very concerned about the impact on water quality, the impact on Curlew feeding grounds, artificial light impact and the loss of habitats associated with development works. A great many members of the local community and beyond made their thoughts known during the application process and I believe Wicklow County Council made the correct decision. I hope the Board follows suit."

The planning application submitted in April of this year by a newly formed Oakmount company called Creatively Pacific Ltd., outlines a forty million euro budget for a 'boutique resort', with an eighteen-month construction period.

A cinema, swimming pool, gym, and restaurant are proposed, as part of a complex which would include forty caravan-like pods, each with a maximum occupancy of

two people, placed around the headland to capitalise on views of Magheramore beach, and the famous dunes at Magherabeg to the south. An ecological report submitted with the planning application acknowledges the risk of damage in multiple categories including 'habitat loss' and 'species fragmentation' and 'water quality.'

The planning report accompanying the application states that "the applicant has appointed a team of experts in their respective fields to ensure that the proposed tourism development respects and protects the amenity of Magheramore beach and the surrounding area [...] protects and enhances the ecological biodiversity, landscape quality and amenity of Magheramore beach and the surrounding area [...] It is submitted that the proposed development will provide a high quality, sustainable tourism and recreation facility which is sensitive to the character and distinctiveness of Magheramore beach."

Calls for expansion of Glen of the Downs into Kindlestown Woods

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has called on the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and Coillte to work together to examine the expansion of the Glen of the Downs's ancient woodland by connecting it to nearby Kindlestown Woods. This call comes after a discussion on biodiversity loss at the Oireachtas Climate Committee, of which Deputy Whitmore is a member, with the NPWS.

After the committee meeting, Deputy Whitmore said: "The Glen of the Downs is an iconic site for Wicklow and is a renowned example of a rare ancient woodland. I believe there are opportunities to not only work to protect this important eco-

logical area, but to enable its expansion into nearby Kindlestown Wood, which is managed and operated by Coillte.

"Ideally, what needs to happen is that Coillte remove non-native trees species from the Kindlestown Woods, and

allow for the natural regeneration of native woodland from the existing native species onsite that would have originally formed part of the Bellevue Estate. Opportunities may also exist for woodland corridors to join Kindlestown

and the Glen of the Downs, to provide the best ecological outcome for the area.

"As a nation, we have lost a huge amount of our old forests and this has resulted in a depleted ecosystem. Its really important that we pull put

all the stops to protect and enhance any existing sites now, before we lose them forever.

"To put this in context, I was recently told by a forester that there is currently no forest in Wicklow that is a healthy and growing state. Unfortunately, they are all moribund, as the level of invasive deer in the county means that all new growth within a forest is quickly eaten and this impedes the natural growth cycle of a forest. This paints a very bleak picture for the future of our forests, and needs

to be addressed by Government.

"To this end, I also asked NPWS to look at installing an enclosure at the Glen of the Downs, that would keep out grazing deer and give the woods an opportunity to regenerate. If this was to happen it would be a significant step in the right direction for reviving our local woodlands. I want to see the woodlands of Wicklow be vibrant centres of biodiversity, and this is a prime opportunity for Coillte and NPWS to deliver on that in Wicklow jointly."



Deputy Jennifer Whitmore



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New water bottle refilling stations approved

Two new water bottle refilling stations have been submitted and approved for the Bray Municipal District, signaling a significant step in the battle against plastic packaging waste. Cllr Rory O'Connor and Cllr Melanie Corrigan submitted this proposal, which was got the green light during the November budget meeting.

The locations for these essential refilling stations are set to be at a location in Bray and in Enniskerry Bog Meadow, strategically placed to encourage residents and visitors to ditch single-use plastic bottles and opt for a more sustainable, eco-friendly choice.

Cathairleach of Bray Municipal District Cllr Melanie Corrigan said she is "delighted to see this project being approved, there is already a water station at the playground on the Seafront, but to have another strategically placed in the town will be a huge benefit to the battle to reduce single use plastics in the community."

Leas Cathairleach of Bray Municipal District Cllr Rory O'Connor said "I believe as a council we need to make it easy for people to be sustainable when visiting both

Enniskerry and Bray and I think having simple things like bottle refilling stations is a start to help tackle the single use culture of water bottles and reduce plastic wastage across the district.'

According to recent statistics, plastic packaging waste recycling rates in Ireland remain dismally low, hovering at a mere 28 percent. Shockingly, a substantial portion of plastic packaging waste is still being sent for incineration, with less than one-third finding its way into recycling programs.

Data reveals that a staggering 22 million plastic bottles are purchased in Ireland every week. These numbers alone show the need to reduce the usage of single use plastic bottles and promote facilities like water bottle refilling stations to encourage people to use reusable bottles.



Bray Municipal District Cathairleach and Leas Cathairleach, councillors Melanie Corrigan and Rory O'Connor

Iconic new sculpture totem unveiled at Greystones train station

The Greystones Rail Station Makeover Committee has announced the recent unveiling of the first Corten Steel Totem (3 metre high solar powered) featuring the portrait of Elizabeth Burnaby - nee Hawkins Whitshed. Elizabeth, born in Greystones, was a world-famous Alpinist, author, and photographer. Local artist Tom Byrne painted the portrait.

The Greystones Rail Station Makeover Committee has announced the recent unveiling of the first Corten Steel Totem (3 metre high solar powered) featuring the portrait of Elizabeth Burnaby - nee Hawkins Whitshed. Elizabeth, born in Greystones, was a world-famous Alpinist, author, and photographer. Local artist Tom Byrne painted the portrait.

In 2016 - the Greystones 2020 committee (later GTT) in association with Greystones Tidy Towns re-identified the Greystones Rail and Dart station as the central hub and focal point in the history and development of our community. (Aston-ishingly over 1 million public transport passenger journeys start and finish there every year.) In 2016 the committee then commissioned local artist Tom Byrne to paint the portraits of over 20 prominent personages whose connection with Greystones was worth marking. These have been on display at various times. Over the years the Greystones Railway Station has received excellent standard maintenance from Irish Rail. This has been mainly of a technical, safety and public facility nature. However, the public realm of the station had considerably deteriorated regarding its general appearance, particularly within the confines and

along both platforms. In terms of visitors arriving by train, this may be their first impression of Greystones.

The current promoters together with Greystones Town Team were determined to revive and deliver on what was initially identified and proposed to create a positive accurate image of the town, its history, legacy, vibrancy and growing community.

Making it happen

Phase 1 - involved agreeing a makeover plan and timeline with the key stakeholders particularly CIE and Irish Rail. The promoters commissioned leading local architect, Colum O'Broin, to design and oversee the quality and implementation of this beautiful project.

Phase 2 - completed in 2022 included all the landscaping, new planting of 100 metres of Portuguese Laurel Hedging, new colourful Scoop and

Valentia Planters, the amazing 20 metre long Nostalgic Platform Mural by local artist Mary-Kate Hardy, and on the western platform the 15 metre long historical timeline presentation by award-winning local journalist Peter Murtagh.

Phase 3 - the final piece is the design and commissioning of up to 9 sculptural Bespoke Corten Steel Totems. These 3-metre-high solar powered installations feature the striking portraits of Greystones Legends.



Dara MacMahon at the launch of the new sculpture totem at Greystones railway station



Neil Durkan cuts the ribbon at the new sculpture totem

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Public Realm Plan launched for Delgany

Delgany Community Council launched their Public Realm Plan on Monday 13th of November in the Horse and Hound. The plan is the culmination of almost three years of work and it showcases the priorities of the Delgany Community.

The launch was attended by many of the local and national representative area elected officials, residents, businesses and local supporters of Delgany Village.

Delgany Community Council said "We were delighted to see such a turnout and were well supported by our partners at the Paul Hogarth Company who helped compile and edit the final report along with presenting the ultimate streetscape of Delgany - complete with shared pathways, bikes, and seating options to inspire us to Delgany's full potential."

Funding for the plan was awarded through the Town and Village Renewal scheme and it involved match funding from Wicklow County Council as well as Delgany Community Council. The Paul Hogarth team facilitated the process and worked with locals, through a wide ranging survey, to find out what people treasure about Delgany as well as the improvements that they would like to see.

Paul Armstrong, Chair of DCC, thanked the

Paul Hogarth Company team and he welcomed the councillors and TDs who attended the event particularly Wicklow County Council Chairperson, Aoife Flynn-Kennedy. Cllr Kennedy praised the fact that the plan has such a strong element of community voice in it and expressed her hopes of seeing the plans coming to fruition in the near future.

Paul also shared his hopes for Delgany "You can expect to see more seating around the village, more walking trails with signage to capitalise on our rich natural environment and play spaces for children. We look forward to Delgany becoming a destination where people can come to relax, shop and socialise as against a place that people just drive through, frequently at speed.

"Delgany has seen major expansion in recent years without the necessary investment in facilities and infrastructure, we want to change that by implementing these plans for our village."

Alice O'Donnell (P.R.O) outlined the pro-

cess that was involved in drafting the plan and thanked all of those who contributed to it. "We received some very exciting proposals from our younger residents who were asked to design a special place in Delgany. Their drawings are included in our plan and we also have also outlined 12 potential projects for Delgany based on the priorities of local residents and businesses. The full plan is available on Delgany Community Council website and it will help the village to apply for and access funding to improve the village environment for everyone."

Welcoming the launch of the plan, Cllr Stephen Stokes said "This plan is a great credit to the community, especially the coordinators including the Delgany Community Council. It is great to see a positive vision."

The Delgany Public Realm Plan analysed the current use of the village, and identified many items that the community would like to see come on stream. Some of these enhancements include more seating areas, and playground spaces. Cllr



At the official launch of the Delgany Public Realm Plan in the Horse & Hound were Cllr Derek Mitchell, Paul Armstrong, Steven Matthews TD, Cllr Lourda Scott, Cllr Stephen Stokes, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Alice O'Donnell, Cllr Tom Fortune and Cllr Gerry Walsh.

Stokes added: "It was interesting to learn more about the needs of the community. There is plenty of work to do to realise this blueprint for positive enhancements."

The Delgany Public Realm Plan is the result of an extensive consultation process. Almost 400 people were surveyed, with the majority living in Delgany. They also heard from almost 200 local children. The plan was prepared by the Delgany Community

Council, working closely with the local communities, businesses and schools in and around Delgany, alongside input from urban design and planning consultants The Paul Hogarth Company.

The next steps will include applying for funding to ensure that the proposals become a reality. Cllr Stephen Stokes concluded: "This is an important moment for everyone who lives in, or is associated with Delgany. I look forward to supporting their continued efforts."

The report notes that "Delgany has experienced significant change and growth through recent times including a notable increase in its population, in businesses, alongside the emergence of improved infrastructure, places and community facilities - informed by economic successes of the wider region.

"Local commercial advancements, connections via means of active travel (including walking and cycling routes), and



Brian Fogarty and Esther Kelly at the official launch of the Delgany Public Realm Plan.

a change in living and working trends brought on by Covid-19 have continued to change the shape and functions of Delgany. It is noted that the Village Accessibility Scheme for Delgany (WCC, 2018) may continue to strategically

shape the future of Delgany's carriageway configuration and travel infrastructure.

Delgany demonstrates a strong sense of civic pride, evident in local strategies that tie into regional attractions such as the Delgany Heritage

Trail. Challenges remain, however, particularly in the noticeable number of motor vehicles, the provision of safe and accessible pedestrian infrastructure through the village, and places for people to meet and relax outdoors."



James Hennessey, Alice O'Donnell, David Curtis, Patti Shields, Pat Cleary, Corrina Homes, Paul Armstrong and Bart O'Doherty at the official launch of the Delgany Public Realm Plan.

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Irish Building Supply laying strong foundations in Wicklow

In these current times, it is more important than ever that we see our local communities in Wicklow supported and thriving. It is therefore heartening and reassuring to see new businesses establishing themselves in Wicklow.



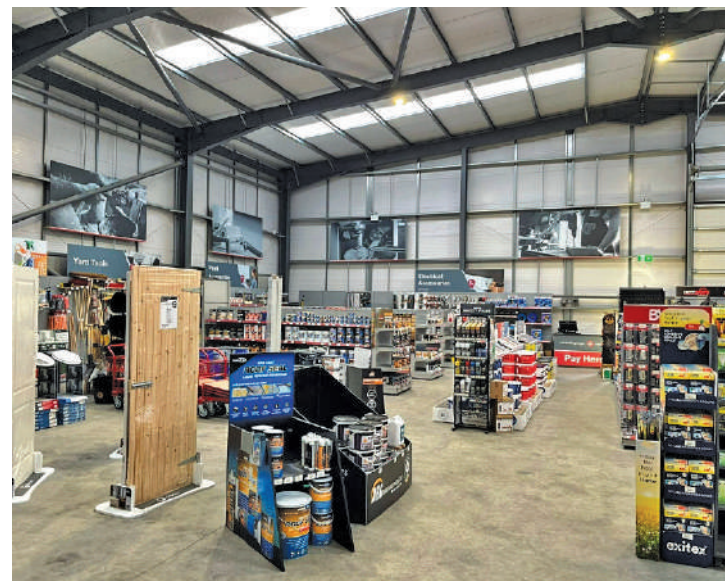
The Directors of Irish Building Supply, Declan, Karen and David Macken

Irish Building Supply is one such company who opened a purpose built 14,000 sq ft store and Logistics Hub in Bullford Business Campus, Kilcoole in May 2022. This expansion marked not only a new chapter for Irish Building Supply but was also a testament to their continued growth and dedication to serving the communities of greater Dublin and Wicklow.

Established in 1970 by the Macken family, Irish Building Supply has had a very strong reputation in South Dublin for service and quality. Its Dun Laoghaire store has been a constant in the lives of builders, tradesmen and DIY enthusiasts who have valued the service and product offering of this builders merchants. With a reputation that spans over five decades, Irish Building Supply has grown from its origins in construction and timber to become a trusted name in the building materials

industry while staying true to being a family-run, 3rd generation local Irish business run by Declan, David and Karen Macken. They are a proud Guaranteed Irish business, reflecting their dedication to supporting local products and communities. Established over 50 years ago, their roots in construction and timber laid the foundation for the comprehensive range of products and service that they offer today. Their dedication to community support extends beyond their product offerings. They take pride in hiring their teams from the local areas, contributing to the growth of the communities they serve.

The Kilcoole store and logistics hub is run by an experienced team including General Manager, Dwayne Holt, Store Manager, Tom Keating and Logistics Manager, Ken Walsh. The team pride themselves on excellent service, competitive



prices, and a quick and reliable delivery service. Their commitment to efficiency is reflected in their use of their own fleet of vehicles and drivers, ensuring that customers orders reach them promptly. Plus, they offer free delivery for orders over €200 to locations across greater Dublin and Wicklow.

The company recognise their role in supporting their customers, many of whom are local builders, carpenters, cabinet-makers and tradesmen. The Kilcoole store is conveniently located just 5 mins from the M11/N11 motorway, with ample free park-

ing, and free coffee. Opening at 7am Monday to Friday, their customers can avail of their morning cappuccino while ordering their building materials for their days work.

Their stores also provide a 'Click & Collect' service on their new website www.irishbuildingsupply.ie and are always available to provide a quote for projects, big or small.

What sets them apart is not just their extensive range of building materials and timber products but also their unique value added services. The Dun Laoghaire store offers specialised services such as timber cutting and paint

mixing, ensuring that their customers' projects receive the attention to detail they deserve.

Irish Building Supply is a member of the United Hardware group. United Hardware has over 160 affiliated stores nationwide which are independently owned and operated by local entrepreneurs. The retail brand is Homevalue which is recognised nationally as the place to go for expert advice, service and quality. The combined buying power of the group enables members like Irish Building Supply to remain competitive in an industry dominated by large chains.

'Christmas under the Sugar Loaf' at Outdoor Living

Unwrap the magic of the season

Hold on to your Santa hats this December as OutdoorLiving.ie host the ultimate Christmas Fair! Step into a world of festive fun at our showroom nestled under the magical Sugar Loaf Mountain in Glen of the Downs, County Wicklow.

Meet Santa and Mrs. Claus: Exciting News! Santa and Mrs. Claus are arriving in style on an oversized American Firetruck on the morning of Saturday 2nd Decem-

ber. So make sure to join us for some exciting photo opportunities. 'Santa Under The Sugar Loaf' will be filled with lots of entertaining activities for

the children including a craft workshop with some of their very naughty and nice elves and storytime with Mrs Claus.

Puppet Show: Get ready to be wowed by

McCormick's Puppet Show on the very first weekend of the Christmas Fair filled with lots of fun and laughter and free entry.

Unwrap the Festive

Delights: From amazing artists and photographers to skilled craft makers and delicious food vendors, there's something for everyone in the family to enjoy! The market will be brimming with decorations, gifts and delights to create seasonal charm in and outside your home.

Real and Artificial Treasures: Whether you're a fan of a real tree or prefer the convenience

of artificial ones, we have it all. Check out our pop-up real tree shop or our stunning display of artificial trees – with unbeatable offers throughout the event.

So, mark your calendars, dust off your Santa hats, and get ready to unwrap the magic of Christmas like never before. Join Outdoor Living.ie this December for an unforgettable cele-

bration of the season at 'Christmas under the Sugar Loaf'.

Open from **11am-5pm for the first three weekends in December – 2nd/3rd, 9th/10th, 16th/17th.**

For three generations, OutdoorLiving.ie has been dedicated to building Ireland's largest selection of outdoor lifestyle options. Their family-run business, nestled against the stunning backdrop of

the Sugar Loaf Mountain, takes great pride in being Ireland's largest garden furniture showroom, spanning over 55,000 sq. ft and showcasing over 300 sets of garden furniture along with superior garden structures and much more. Their Dunboyne showroom is home to the most extensive beanbag display, in addition to our top-tier selection of artificial grass and Christmas trees.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET 2024

Notice is hereby given that the draft Wicklow County Council Budget for the financial year ending 31st December 2024 has been prepared and will be considered by the County Council at the Budget Meeting to be held at 10am on Monday, 27th November 2023.

A copy of the draft Wicklow County Council Budget will be deposited at Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow from Monday, 20th November 2023 and may be inspected there free of charge by any member of the public during normal opening hours. A copy will also be available to view on the Wicklow County Council website.

A copy of the draft Wicklow County Council Budget may be purchased at a cost of €10.00.

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

Phone: 0404 - 20100
Fax: 0404 - 20112
e-mail: cosec@wicklowcoco.ie

Frustration at slow pace of site acquisition for Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School

Sinn Fein TD John Brady, while conditionally welcoming confirmation which he received from the Department of Education that the Department is conducting a site assessment exercise for Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School (ETSS), having identified a potential property, expressed concern at the length of time that the process was taking.

The school, which is currently in temporary accommodation, is under growing pressure to cope with the demands of a growing population in the Wicklow Town area.

Deputy Brady said: "While I welcome confirmation by the department that progress has been made, albeit slowly, in respect of a site acquisition for Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School, I am both concerned and frustrated at the length of time that it is taking the department of Education to progress this project. The fact is that Wicklow ETSS are faced with enormous challenges.

"The school is operating at almost full capacity, with only one available classroom to meet the needs of 72 new students, who hope to start at ETSS in September 2024.

"There have been massive population increases in the Wicklow Town area, which is placing further pressure on Wicklow ETSS. The school remains in temporary accommodation. It has no leaving cert specialist rooms, no computer room, or school library, and lacks adequate sporting facilities.

"The school provides for 300 families in the area, who are growing in

frustration at the length of time it is taking to progress work towards a new school.

"The school has been waiting over five years for a new school, and it looks like they may be forced to use prefabs to cope with overcrowding. It is not acceptable at any level that the Minister for Education has left the school in limbo as the wait for the acquisition of a site for a new school continues for Wicklow ETSS.

"It is imperative that Wicklow ETSS is prioritised. The school cannot be left to cope with the limitations of its current location indefinitely."



John Brady TD outside Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School in Wicklow Town.

Greystones facing significant shortage of school places



Jennifer Whitmore TD

Social Democrat TD Jennifer Whitmore has raised concerns about a lack of school places for students in Greystones for the September 2024 intake. This comes after the recent first round of secondary school places going out to students and many disappointed families contacting Deputy Whitmore having not received a place.

Deputy Whitmore has been raising this issue of secondary school place shortages with the Department of Education for weeks and is disappointed in their lack of urgency in response.

Deputy Whitmore said: "I have been hearing from parents in Greystones nonstop over the weekend regarding school places. Since offers were sent out, many students did not get an offer and are now on waiting lists for a secondary school place. Parents are very

concentrated and I know how worrying this is for them and the students. A lack of action from the Department regarding the shortfall of school places has not helped.

"The first round of offers is always wrought with worry as some parents get no offers, while others get multiple. Once families begin to accept or decline spaces, a clearer picture will hopefully emerge. The schools will then sit down with each other and work through the lists to see if they can

identify overlaps.

"However, there will still be a shortfall in the number of places available. The 3 schools serving Greystones highlighted this as an issue recently, and I have raised it multiple times with the Department of Education and the Minister in the hope that they would work proactively to address this issue. This has not been the case. The Department of Education need to treat this situation with urgency.

"The Department must also acknowledge that we need a long-term solution for families in Greystones. Otherwise, this current shortage will cause stress and upset annually. There are also still outstanding issues facing schools like Temple Carraig, which

requires a building extension and GCC, which is still waiting for a new building. The supply of sufficient school places in the area has been an issue for years, and one I have worked on since being elected as a TD."

Deputy Whitmore went on to say: "This is unacceptable, and the fact is that it could have been avoided if the Department of Education had listened to local concerns before now. As Wicklow's population grows, the Department should be providing more places, not less. We cannot have a situation where we have fewer school places than students for the 2024/2025 school year. I will keep raising this issue for parents in Greystones and across the county."

Harris celebrates Science Week with visit to schools in Greystones

Minister Simon Harris visited schools in Greystones last week to celebrate Science Week and also launched the Little Book of Irish Research.

Last week was Science Week and Minister Harris launched the Little Book of Irish Research in Wicklow Schools.

Minister Harris visited St Brigid's National School and St Laurence's National School in Greystones.

Minister Harris said "Science Week is always a very exciting time for people of all ages but especially young children who are beginning to get curious about the world that surrounds them.

"I am delighted to be here in two schools in Greystones to celebrate Science Week as the Minister for Science. To mark this week I am launching the Little Book of Irish Research in these two schools but all schools will have access to this little book.

"Last year I asked Irish people what their priorities were in the area of research and science. This little book tries to capture those priorities and tells us what we are doing in the area of research and science to tackle the challenges of today and tomorrow.

"Our young people are very concerned about climate change and this is reflected in this book. Some children wanted us to examine how to protect bees from extinction and the book tells us a little bit about what it takes for bees to survive and what we need to do to protect them."

Minister Harris added: "Today is about including everyone is Science Week but particularly young children who are passionate about science and how it impacts their everyday lives."

The Little Book of Irish Research, launched as part of Science Week, has its origins in the Government's Creating Our Future initiative.

In 2021, the general public was asked what researchers in Ireland should explore to create a better future.

Following over 18,000 submissions from people all over Ireland, the Creating Our Future Committee identified 16 main themes.

The "Little Book of Irish Research" captures some of the latest, fasci-

nating Irish research activities aligned with these themes.

Speaking about Science Week, Minister Harris said: "Science Week is a week-long event held each November that celebrates science in our everyday lives. It aims to remind us all of the impact and benefit of science in our daily lives. It also strives to stimulate, supports, and creates awareness of science.

"This year, we have taken areas identified by members of the public through Creating Our Future and focused on them for Science Week. The theme was 'Human?' and as part of it, the public was asked to consider the question of what it means to be human in today's world, and how the decisions we make today will impact the people and world of the future. From the climate emergency to social interaction and artificial intelligence, how will future generations be impacted?"

Support of €644,330 has been provided to several regional Science

Week-funded projects which contribute to the national Science Week effort at local and regional level.

Funded by the SFI Science Week Call, there was a range of projects from across the sciences, arts, media, education, youth and community work sectors which broaden the reach and participation of people in Science Week in ways that are most suited to them.

This year, Science Foundation Ireland funded 15 Science Week Festivals and seven Science Week Targeted Events, which are smaller, standalone activities for targeted audiences.

Commenting on Science Week, Director General of Science Foundation Ireland, Professor Philip Nolan, said: "Science has a profound impact on individuals, society, and the world at large in a multitude of ways; from technological advancement to healthcare and medicine, environmental conservation, food production, and entertainment."



Minister Harris celebrating Science Week with students and staff at St. Brigid's National School in Greystones

Christmas Gift Ideas



As the festive season approaches, the question arises: what presents to buy for our loved ones? In a world increasingly driven by personal choice and the desire for flexibility, more and more people are turning to gift vouchers as the ideal Christmas present. Here's why gift vouchers are becoming the go-to choice for the holiday season.

Gift vouchers offer the ultimate flexibility. Instead of second-guessing the perfect gift, you can give your loved ones the freedom to choose what they truly desire. Whether it's a voucher for their favorite store, a culinary experience, or a ticket to an event or destination, the possibilities are endless. This flexibility is especially valuable in a world where personal tastes and needs are so diverse and constantly evolving.

In our fast-paced world, convenience is key. Purchasing a gift voucher online or in-store takes just a few minutes—a perfect solution for those with a busy



lifestyle. Additionally, digital vouchers can be sent instantly via email, making them an ideal last-minute gift that doesn't compromise on thoughtfulness.

Purchasing gift vouchers from local businesses is an excellent way to

support your community. By doing so, you're not just giving a gift to a loved one; you're also helping to sustain local artisans, restaurants, and stores. This community-focused approach to gifting adds an extra layer of meaning to your present.

In an era where personal tastes are more varied than ever, a gift voucher strikes the perfect balance between personalization and safety. It shows that you know where your loved ones like to shop or dine, yet it doesn't risk the pitfalls of choosing the wrong size, color, or style.

Amidst the joys of the holiday season, practicality holds its own charm, and what could be more practical and thoughtful than the gift of warmth? Vouchers for home heating fuel or oil emerge as an exceptionally considerate choice. They provide tangible relief during the cold winter months, especially valuable for those in colder climates or for loved ones on a fixed income. This gift not only ensures a cozy and comfortable home environment but also eases the financial burden associated with heating expenses. By giving a voucher for heating fuel or oil, you're not just gifting a commodity; you're offering the warmth of your care and support, making it a deeply personal and appreciated gesture.

Gift vouchers may seem like a simple idea, but their benefits are profound. They offer flexibility, convenience, sustainability, support for local businesses, and a safe way to personalize your gift. This Christmas, consider giving the gift of choice with a voucher that encapsulates not just your love and thoughtfulness, but also the spirit of the season in its most modern form.



The Belmont Demesne 200-acre estate offers amazing off-road bike trails and walking trails through woodlands and unspoilt countryside including Bray Head Loop trail overlooking the Irish sea. The trails are perfect for bike enthusiasts of all ages and skill levels. Visit Fatbike Adventures on site for bike sales, servicing, rentals and guided tours. Located within their beautiful Walled Garden is The Barn@Belmont café & restaurant serving delicious food, coffee and sweet treats. The 2024 Belmont Parking Pass will give you free parking for the whole year, so you can enjoy all these experiences time and time again.

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Onwards and upwards for BIFE students

Bray Institute of Further Education's 2023 Graduation Ceremony took place on the BIFE campus on Saturday 11th November.



Kate Hemenstall and Hanna Chambers at the BIFE conferring ceremony.

Conferring took place over two sittings. The first one was at 1pm on the Saturday where students received their awards in a range of disciplines including Acting, Dance, Sound Recording, Music Production, Music Performance, DJ Techniques, TV and Film, Game Design, Computing, Sport, Soccer, Business, Tourism, Pharmacy, Professional Cookery, Accounting Technician, English Language, and Security Studies were presented.

The second ceremony took place at 5.30pm where awards such as Art, Design, Nursing, Community Care, Holistic Health, Hair-dressing, Nails, Beauty, Early Childhood Care & Education, Animal Care, Science - Pre University, Psychology, Forensics, Engineering and Administration were presented. There was a great



Emilie Cobigo, Naomi Kidd, Etienne Cobigo and Pauline Kavanagh at the BIFE conferring ceremony.

turnout on the day with over 800 people attending the Ceremony.

"We are delighted to have so many graduating this year as we celebrate over 35 years of serving the Wicklow, Wexford, Kildare and Greater

Dublin area," said the Deputy Principal Gabriel Allen.

"In the improving economic climate, having a Level 5 / level 6 Certificate, Diploma or Higher National Diploma award remains a

prerequisite to finding meaningful employment, irrespective of location. These awards are portable and their quality is recognised internationally which gives the graduate every opportunity of success. Graduates

also have the opportunity to gain advanced entry onto higher education degree courses and in some instances complete an honours degree with one extra year of study in Higher Education Institutes."



Kellyann Dempsey, BIFE Principal Ray Tedders and Gissell Niefo Cross at the BIFE conferring ceremony.



Mary O'Connell with Chentele and Helena Kangowa at the BIFE conferring ceremony.

Bray NLN students walk in aid of Ark Housing Association

The students from the Skills for Education and Employment course in National Learning Network Bray recently organised a sponsored walk in aid of Ark Housing Association in Bray as a fundraising project.



Bray National Learning Network students at the start of the walk



The attached picture is of Shay Hiney and Oonagh Hodkinson, NLN, presenting the cheque to Ann Murphy and Claire Harris from Ark Housing Association.

Ark Housing, located in the Bray Recycling Centre is the closest neighbour to NLN and the students in the centre are very aware of the important work this charity does. The lead up to the walk was busy with tasks including promoting the

walk, arranging a presentation from Ark Housing, distributing sponsorship cards, inviting groups from other NLN centres to join us, sorting goody bags, gathering raffle prizes, selling tickets and planning food for the walkers. The walk took

place on Friday 20th October in torrential rain. The NLN students and staff kept spirits up, completed the 5km walk and came back to the centre for some hot food and the raffle.

Including very generous sponsorship from

NLN Stillorgan who completed the walk on a brighter day.

€2,500 was raised. The project was a huge success and NLN staff and students would like to thank everyone who sponsored us and helped ARK Housing.

Strictly Scrum Dancing set to take Arklow by storm

The much talked about Strictly Scrum Dancing fundraiser, in aid of Arklow Rugby Football Club, will take place this week, and promises to be a night of entertainment, glitz and glam.

Swapping rugby boots for dancing shoes, the volunteer dancers will take to the stage to do battle on Friday 24th of November, in The Arklow Bay Hotel. After two months of dancing lessons, and despite initial concerns about standing on toes and swinging partners the wrong way, all contestants now have their eyes on the winning trophy.

Guided by distinguished Choreographer, Martina Lynch, the audience are in for a treat, "I've watched the volunteers arrive to initial dance lessons unsure of their ability to dance. Yet fast-forward, and to see the progress and talent emerge has been a real honour to be part of. This is going to be an incredible performance."

The show will be hosted by renowned DJ Phil Cawley, with former RTÉ Dancing with the Stars, Shane Byrne, Ladies Team

Sponsor, Antoinette Hudson of The Gin Mill, and Pat Casey, judging the ten couples. The audience will also have the chance to vote for their favourite couples with voting stations set up on the night, and each vote costing €2.

Dancers going head to head for 'Strictly Scrum Dancing Couple of 2023', include Laura Rice and Eamonn Quirke, Danielle Kaye and Dean McCormack, Ryan Kinsella and Emily Slater, Kerry Byrne and Cian Cooney, Wioletta Godkin and Artur Ostrycharz, Tja_a Jagodic and Glenn Godkin, Seán Sheekey and Gemma Hill, Emer Dillon and Sean McCarthy, Lorraine Dunne and John Louth, and Laoise Whelan O'Neill and Gavin Cox.

ARFC Chairperson Ian Gavigan highlights, "With over 450 Arklow rugby players, from as young as 4 to 50, and numbers growing fast,

all proceeds from this fundraiser will support the ongoing development and expansion of ARFC for our community. We're blown away by the commitment of each of the dancers, and extremely grateful to all the volunteers and local sponsors who are making this event a reality."

Tickets for the event are €25 each. A limited number of the 600 tickets are still available, and can be purchased from: Laura Rice (086) 304 4822 or Dean McCormack (083) 173 6689

Doors open at 7p.m. Show starts at 8p.m. sharp. This is an over 16s event. Any 16 and 17 year olds attending must be supervised by a parent or guardian. Cash votes only. €2 = 1 vote. Everyone MUST have their physical ticket for entry on the night. Raffle on the night with brilliant prizes



The dancers who will be taking part in the Strictly Scrum Dancing event this week.

Fundraising for Irish United Nations Veterans

The Wicklow Branch of the Irish United Nations Veterans Association is hosting a fundraising quiz on Friday, November 24th at 8pm. The venue is the Bray Head Fishing & Social Club, on the Strand Road in Bray. Tables of four cost €40.



Cllr Stephen Stokes (centre) with Irish United Nations Veterans Association of Wicklow

Post 21 (Wicklow Branch) offer ongoing member support to veterans who have served with the United Nations. They also continue to serve the wider County Wicklow community with charitable efforts including festive hampers for those in needs.

Fundraising is key to their ongoing efforts. As such Post 21 have teamed up with Cllr Stephen Stokes to organise this quiz.

Cllr Stokes stated: "The U.N. Veterans have given tremendous service to Ireland and World peace. I am delighted to support their ongoing efforts in the community."

Cllr Stokes mentioned that people with absolutely no connection to the Irish United Nations Veterans Association would be warmly welcome to attend the fundraising quiz. He added: "It's tables of four, but if you come on your own, we will find you a team. The emphasis on the night will be enjoyment."

The organisers thanked businesses who have donated quiz prizes so far, and would welcome more donations. Anyone looking for more information about the Irish United Nations Veterans Association - Post 21 Wicklow can contact Viv Collins on jhvcollins@gmail.com

Music at Mermaid

| | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-----|-----|
| Seán Keane | Saturday 2nd December | 8pm | €31 |
| The Blooze Brothers | Saturday 16th December | 8pm | €21 |
| Drawing from The Well | Sunday 17th December | 8pm | €26 |
| Scullion | Thursday 21st December | 8pm | €26 |
| Ennio Morricone Experience | Friday 12th January | 8pm | €26 |
| The Fureys | Saturday 13th January | 8pm | €26 |

01 272 4030 mermaidartscentre.ie mermaid

Tim Burton's Wednesday to be filmed in Wicklow



Tim Burton

The second season of the Tim Burton directed TV show Wednesday, starring Jenna Ortega, and which is based on the character Wednesday Adams from the hit Addams Family movie franchise, will be filmed on location in Wicklow.

With 252 million viewers, the show is regarded as the most popular English language series on Netflix. Offering his congratulations to all involved, Deputy Brady described the announcement as a huge boost for the film industry not just in Wicklow but Ireland as a whole.

Deputy Brady said: "The announcement that the next series, which will be the second season of the hit Netflix show Wednesday is to be filmed in Wicklow represents a huge boost to the Irish film industry. With an estimated budget of over €200 million, which is comparative to that of a major Hollywood movie, we are talking about a massive TV series, which has outperformed the latest season of the hit show

Stranger Things, which most people would recognise as a firm fan favourite.

"The importance of the announcement to the Irish film industry cannot be overstated. Wicklow, through Ashford and Ardmore film studios has been synonymous with Film Ireland. The addition of a major TV series such as Wednesday puts Wicklow back firmly front and centre on the international stage."

Directed by Tim Burton (*Ed Wood*, *Beetlejuice*, *Sleepy Hollow*), and starring Jenna Ortega in the title role, along with Hollywood star Christina Ricci, Wednesday is a hugely performing show for streaming giant Netflix.

There will also be huge benefit to the county as a whole, with the addition of

jobs directly associated with the filming of the show, long with ancillary benefits to local communities in terms of support services.

The announcement also comes on the back of the joint Enterprise Ireland and Wicklow County Council initiative, the launch of the Clermont Screen Hub, which is located at Wicklow County Campus in Rathnew, last month.

Designed to boost job creation and support local businesses operating in the film and audio-visual industry, the Hub offers 10,000sq feet of work space for those involved in content creation and servicing the productions taking place in Wicklow.

It includes a conference centre, meet-

ing rooms, collaborative work and social spaces, along with a podcast studio and training facilities. Elsewhere, work commenced in January of this year on the Greystones Media Campus, which will be Ireland's largest film and TV studio location, with 670, 000sq feet of studio space sitting on 44 acres.

"This €300 million project sitting alongside the Rathnew initiative, and announcement on the relocation of the filming of Wednesday to Wicklow, firmly re-establishes the Garden County as the representing the epicentre of the Irish film industry," Deputy Brady continued.

"Like all across Wicklow, I look forward with confidence to even more success in the Film industry for both Ashford and Ardmore studios. The future of the studio industry in Wicklow certainly looks very bright indeed."

Carnew Musical Society presents The Addams Family

The residents of Carnew have been noticing some very strange looking people around the town lately and locals are afraid that rumours that a very unorthodox family are preparing to move into the town are true? I can in fact confirm that these rumours are true. However, I can also confirm that the family and their friends only plan to stay a week, so there will be no need to run them out of town, just yet. The Addams Family will be resident in St. Brigid's Hall, Carnew from November 27th to December 2nd.

In other words, Carnew Musical Society will be staging the The Addams Family which is a very popular musical comedy with music and lyrics by Andrew Lippa and book by Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice. The show is based upon The Addams Family characters which most people are now very familiar with which were created by Charles Addams.

Carnew are lucky to have a very talented Production team, with Director - Michael Dunbar, Musical Director

- Conor McCarthy and Choreographer - Graham Finnerty. The role of Gomez Addams will be played by John Young, John won the AIMS award for Best Supporting Actor for his role in the CMS production of Oklahoma. His wife Morticia Addams will be played by Erin Hogan also an AIMS Nominee for Best Actress for her role as Laurey in the same show, while daughter Wednesday will be played by Ashley Doran won Best Actress for her role as Molly in Ghost with New Ross

MS, and son Pugsley by John Donohoe. Uncle Fester will be played by Graham Finnerty, (also a AIMS Nominee for Best Male Singer for last year's production of Guys & Dolls. Grandma will be played by Mary Doran and Lurch will be played by Alex Murphy. The Beineke Family, Mal, Alice and Lucas will be played by Rory Robinson (multi AIMS award Winner) and Jennifer Byrne (who won Best Comedienne for her role as Mother Superior in Enniscorthy MS production of Sister

Act) and Stephen Keegan. The cast are backed up by a super chorus, which will include Sean Hallahan in his 53rd Show with the Society who is in as good of voice as ever. This surely has to be an all time record.

Taking over from Tommy Kavanagh as Stage Manager is Nigel May. In 1983, Nigel's mother, Florrie May directed her first show with Carnew MS and so the Society are delighted to welcome Nigel for his first show forty years later.

The costuming will be undertaken by Jacinta Kavanagh and her crew, and we are incredibly lucky to have Marion O'Toole to do our make-up and hair. Marion is a

renowned for her work in the professional Theatre and Film Industry and has worked on Game of Thrones, Moone Boy and on the IFTA winning creative hair team on Vikings. Our lighting will be in the expert hands of our All Ireland award winning lighting engineer, Kevin McEvoy.

Getting ready to welcome all patrons to St. Brigid's Hall for our show is our President, Debbie Furlong, who is our Front of House Manager.

At the helm, organising all aspects of the show is a hardworking committee

under the leadership of Chairman, Lorna Doran McEvoy.

The show will be staged in St. Brigid's Hall, Carnew from November 27th to December 2nd, with both a matinee and evening performance Saturday the 2nd of December.

Ticket prices range from €12 - €20 (+ booking fee) from www.gr8events.ie which is now open. Should any business or private individual wish to become a Sponsor for our show or if you would like further information in this regard, please contact any of the committee or members of Carnew Musical Society or phone (087) 9323990 (This is not a booking Number) Premium seats are reserved for Sponsors

Super Draw

Also to help with the cost of staging their annual show, Carnew Musical Society have a wonderful Super Draw each year and this year's prizes are again fabulous:

1st Prize: Gold Necklace (Value €260.00)

Sponsored by McGuire Diamonds, Gorey

2nd Prize €200.00 Sponsored by

Ian Pearson, Tinahely.

3rd Prize: Super Christmas Hamper

(Value €150.00) Sponsored by Quinn

Property (Carnew and Gorey)

4th Prize: €100.00 Fuel Voucher Sponsored

by Glen Fuel Services Ltd., Gorey.

The Draw will take place after the Final performance of on Saturday 2nd December, 2022.

and will be allocated by telephoning the box office at designated times on the 8th, 9th and 10th of November next (number and times on Sponsor tickets). Online booking will open for the public on Wednesday 1st of November on www.gr8events.ie



The Perfect Immigrant

Mermaid Arts Centre. Saturday 25th November. 8pm.

Pay What You Can from €8

The Perfect Immigrant follows Levi, a young Nigerian man pursuing a masters degree in Dublin, as he encounters the everyday obstacles of being an immigrant in Ireland while carrying with him the (literal and emotional) baggage from home.

The script moves fluidly between comedy and heartbreak, as Levi learns the meaning of "what's the craic", tries his best to make ogbono soup in Dublin, and feels the sting of a tense relationship to his father. With a story woven through prose, poetry, music and movement, audiences shift in their seats, teased by the discomfort of this immigrant settling into a new land.

Lost Lear at Mermaid

Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd November. 8pm

Pay what you can from €8

"Who is it that can tell me who I am?" - King Lear, Act I Scene IV

A moving and darkly comic remix of Shakespeare's play told from the point of view of Joy, a person with dementia, who is living in an old memory of rehearsing 'King Lear'. Joy's delicately maintained reality is upended by the arrival of her estranged son who, being cast as Cordelia, must find a way to speak his piece from within the limited role he's given.

Using puppetry, projection and live video effects, the audience are landed in Joy's world as layers of her past and present, fiction and reality, overlap and distort. 'Lost Lear' is a thought provoking meditation on theatre, artifice and the possibility of communicating across the chasms between us.

A Q & A post-show talk will take place on Tuesday 21st November.

Following the national and international tour of A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings, Dan Colley and his company have turned their sights on a very (very) loose adaptation of King Lear, examining the self and that part of us that's inaccessible to others. The tour will officially open in Riverbank Arts Centre on the 19th of September (tour dates below) and tour until the start of December.



Photographers show love for Wicklow's coast

Image taken in County Wicklow wins Coastal Landscape category in the Love Your Coast photography competition.

Clean Coasts proudly announced the winning photographers of the 14th edition of the Love Your Coast photography competition. With a prize fund of €6,000, the competition has attracted hundreds of photographers all around Ireland this year, receiving a record number of over 1,300 entries.

Stephen Dunbar, with his 'Humpback Feeding', captured in Broadhaven Bay, Co. Mayo won the 'Photographer of the Year' title and 1st place in the Wildlife and the Coast category.

Peter Vandermeersch came first in the 'Coastal Landscape' category with the image 'Horizon' taken in Bray. Peter said: "I've taken this picture in Bray, a late afternoon. Passing the little hut I did notice that the horizon was perfectly going 'through' the man made construction,

right was adding the perfect visual accent which the picture needs."

Des Byrne's image titled 'Calvin Klein', captured at Naylor's Cove, Bray, was shortlisted among the top ten in the People and the Coast category. Des said: "My photo was taken in Bray in an area know locally as Naylor's Cove, right at the base of Bray Head Mountain. Naylor's Cove was famous for its outdoor Swimming Baths, in which you had to pay an admission charge, many years before this, the

biggest summer event on the Calendar in Bray was the Summer Regatta, it used to start here, while hundreds lined the Prom to cheer them on. I was in the Cove one Saturday morning and I noticed three local Swimmers coming out of the water I thought it would be nice to get the three of them in a portrait on the narrow walkway, when their friend who wasn't swimming noticed I was taking a photo, he stripped quickly down to his Calvin Kleins in order to get in the shot. The fact

that I now had four people in the frame made it better, as they huddled closer together, on the narrow walkway in fear of falling back into the water."

Peter Vandermeersch with 'New Year in Ireland', taken in Bray, was also one of the top ten photographers in the People and the Coast category. Peter captured this image at the beginning of January 2023 when hundreds of people were celebrating the new year by diving into the Irish Sea in Bray. "I was struck by



1st place: Peter Vandermeersch - Horizon - Bray



Christopher Howes - Time to Ourselves - Brideshead, Wicklow Town



Peter Vandermeersch - New Year in Ireland - Bray. Peter described his People and the Coast Love Your Coast image as, "People enjoying the new years swim in Bray."

the number of happy people who looked so great and all were looking forward to a happy and healthy year. The picture of these two happy women summarises it perfectly."

Finally, Christopher Howes was shortlisted among the top ten in the Wildlife and the Coast category with the image "Time to Ourselves" taken at Brideshead. He said: "I have done a lot of seal photography since I picked up a camera a few years ago, and they never disappoint me. I usually do a lot of pup photos, but this year I wanted to concentrate on capturing the seals during the mating time. It took me a lot of time and planning but in the end it was worth the time I put in. It was taken on a very cold morning and i was nearly giving up on it, but luckily I stayed that bit longer to

get this lovely moment I captured."

In 2023, Clean Coasts celebrated its 20th anniversary. Since 2003, Clean Coasts has been working with communities to help protect and care for Ireland's waterways, coastline, seas, ocean and marine life. Since 2010, the Love Your Coast photography competition has been a celebration of all the beauty and uniqueness of the Irish coast, that Clean Coasts volunteers work to protect.

As part of its commitments under the EU's Marine Strategy Framework Directive and OSPAR's Marine Litter

Action Plan, the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government is supporting An Taisce's 'Clean Coasts Programme', in its engagement with marine communities in relation to marine litter and in heightening public awareness and influencing positive behaviour among civil society.

"Love Your Coast's mission extends beyond a mere photography competition," stated Sinead McCoy, Coastal Communities Manager. "Our coastal and marine environment form an integral part of Ireland's identity. Through this competition,

we invite the people in Ireland to appreciate, celebrate, and safeguard our coast, echoing the dedication of our over 2,000 volunteer groups working tirelessly to protect our marine environment."

The Love Your Coast photography competition stands as a testament to Ireland's coastal beauty and character, encapsulated through the lens of photographers who take part in the competition year after year. Clean Coasts wants to congratulate all the winning and shortlisted photographers and thank them for being part of this year's celebrations.



Des Byrne - Calvin Klein - Naylor's Cove, Bray

Four Score and Then: Phil Coulter by candlelight



Phil Coulter is bringing his 'Four Score and Then' tour to Greystones on Friday 15th December. The charity gig will take place in St. Patrick's Church. Tickets cost €40 per person and can be bought on Eventbrite. Pre-show drinks in the church at 7pm and the concert starts at 8pm.

Speaking about the concert Canon David Mungavin said "A candlelit evening with Phil Coulter performing his greatest hits here at Patrick's Church is the perfect way to come together and celebrate this December. In the past he has performed for President Clinton and has been on the The Late Late Show many times so we are really pleased to have him join us for this year's Christmas charity event. It promises to be a beautiful concert, with the Church filled with candles and song. We are looking forward to welcoming everyone."

The Derryman's recordings are one of the biggest record sales in the country, boasting 23 platinum discs, 39 gold discs, 52 silver discs, with two Grand Prix Eurovision awards. Among the many Hits He has written are 'Congratulations' and 'Ireland's Call' for the Irish Rugby Team.

All proceeds from the event will go the Make a Wish Foundation and St. Patrick's Parish.



Three one-act plays by Delgany Dramatic Society

Delgany Dramatic Society is back with three one act plays as part of its autumn programme.

The plays are: 'Nora's Ark', by local playwright and actor Peter Robbie, a nod to climate change; 'Anastasia - the recognition scene', a drama by Marcelle Maurette, the age-old question, did she or did she not survive execution after the Russian Revolution; And 'Sharks in the Custard', a comedy by Tony Layton, a unique solution to cut-backs in a local art gallery.

The plays will be presented in the Old Schoolhouse, Delgany on Thursday, Friday and Saturday 23rd, 24th and 25th November, curtain up at 8pm. Tickets at the Door €15 and concessions Á10. An enjoyable evening is promised.

Children's short story competition

Budding authors are being encouraged to get creative and enter Specsavers' nationwide short story competition. The competition has been launched to help celebrate Specsavers' sponsorship of the Junior and Senior Children's Book of the Year categories at the An Post Irish Book Awards 2023.

Writing encourages children to explore their imagination, bolster their literacy learnings and put their reading skills into practice. The winner of the junior and senior category of the short story competition will win €500 for their school library along with all the shortlisted children's titles for 2023.

To enter the competition simply create a short story, no longer than 500 words. The ask is to write a short story inspired by the picture: 'I stepped out of the front door clutching my new binoculars. My mum said they were magic, but didn't tell me what they could do...'

Closing date for entries is Friday the 24th of November 2023. All entries should be posted to: Specsavers Short Story Competition, c/o WHPR, 6 Ely Place, Dublin 2, or submit online at www.specsavers.ie/



Mr. Sands Scrapbook

Whale Theatre, Thursday 30th November 2023 @ 8pm (doors 7.30pm). Tickets €12/€10 and available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550.

After bringing The Heights to the Whale Theatre and playing to a sell-out audience, Bray's Youth Theatre is back for more, with an fundraiser that will showcase their talented members! "We've done so many amazing things over the last 2 years, and we would love to share them with you...Expect a showcase of our members' many talents, including theatre! Storytelling! Films! Audio Dramas!

"All of this is in support of our next big project - a brand-new piece of original theatre, dreamed up by the Mr Sands team! Come along and help us make this the best show it can be."



Greystones native & award winning soprano Jade Phoenix returns to the Whale Theatre this December 3rd for an evening of beloved Opera classics and Christmas favourites. Jade will be joined on stage by Irish Bass-Baritone Rory Dunne. The Irish Times called their show 'An aptitude for Bravura that is quite impressive'. 4pm (doors 3pm). Tickets €25/€20 and available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550.

Christmas All Year: Charity song in aid of Make-A-Wish Foundation

They say the best way to make friends is through music. This seems to play true for 15-year-old Niamh Noade (known as The Girl with the Harp), from Newry and 13-year-old Niamh Smith (known as Niamh Beatrix) from County Wicklow.



Niamh Noade (left) and Niamh Smith

Both rising stars, these two singers met in 2022 during a workshop with Irish singer-songwriter, Luan Parle. They hit it off and it was at this time that they decided to write a Christmas single together.

The duo has more than their names and music talent in common. Both happen to work with Julie Miles, one of the UK's most sought-after voice coaches and whereas Niamh Noade was one of Ireland's Junior Eurovision finalists in 2022, Niamh Beatrix was in the top 3 in this year's contest.

Christmas All Year, composed and written but the two youngsters, tells of a child-like wish to freeze a moment in time when they are care-



free and happy, and will be released this Friday, 24th November in aid of Make-a-Wish Ireland and Make-a-Wish UK.

The original single can be streamed in aid of the

charities at: <https://artists.landr.com/ChristmasALLYearDonations> can also be made directly at: <https://www.idonate.ie/fundraiser/shinefromwithin> (ROI) or <https://donate.make-a-wish.org.uk/make-a-wish> (UK)

make-a-wish.org.uk/make-a-wish (UK)

The music video, which was filmed on the Wicklow Way Christmas Tree farm in Wicklow can be streamed from

<https://youtu.be/rWpojwvnhFU>.

To follow Niamh & Niamh's progress, visit Instagram @thegirlwiththeharp and @niamh-beatrix

Arklow filmmaker nominated for Volunteer Ireland Awards

With 550 nominations, Arklow filmmaker Dave Thomas was shortlisted with two others in the category of 'Campaigning and Activism' in the Volunteer Ireland Awards. Dave is mostly known for his work cofounding and being the chairperson of the Wicklow Pride Festival for the first 10 years and his campaigning to successfully get permanent Pride Rainbow Crossings across County Wicklow, with the first one in Arklow in 2021. Dave is also an author and journalist.

However, Dave began his activism and campaigning at a very early age. "I organised a couple of concerts with other children in my neighbourhood when I was about 8 or 9 years old. The idea was to stage a

variety show in my next door neighbours back garden and charge an admission fee for the parents and other kids that did not want to be in it. The money raised was then given to my school, the Central

Remedial Clinic, a school for children with disabilities. That was the start of my journey and it has not stopped", explains Dave.

In the late 1980's Dave began his LGBTQ+ activism by writing and

helping out at the GCN (Gay Community Newspaper) at the now famous Hirschfield Centre in Dublin's Temple Bar. "That's when I discovered my LGBTQ+ community. For the first time in my life I was mixing with, and collaborating with people that had similar experiences to me, similar worries and pressures, at a time in Ireland when being gay was basically illegal."

During a training programme in 1992 which involved living and studying in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Dave met a well-known actor, producer and writer, Don Brocket. That meeting changed his life. "I met Don at a shoot of a television show he was directing and appearing in. Before hand, I did not know Don had a disability too, so when I met him I was surprised that someone with a disability in America could become so successful as a Producer, Director and Writer, when attitudes in Ireland were pretty primitive towards people with disability gaining access to education and employment. When I returned home with the plan of working in Radio, Television and Film, I got the idea that there should

be a national organisation that bridges the gap between the arts and people with disabilities. As there was none, I decided that I needed to set one up. I asked a friend of mine to help out, and together we created the first ever national arts and disability centre in Ireland called The APIC Centre. It was so successful, it won many awards, and we have visitors from all over the world wanting to visit to see what we were doing. President Mary Robinson came to celebrate our third Birthday. Soon after American Ambassador to Ireland, Jean Kennedy Smith came to visit too, and I got to know here during this time."

In 2022/2023, with a new committee of dedicated volunteers, Dave and his team brought the Wicklow Pride Festival to new heights when they held the first ever Pride Parade in County Wicklow. "The day of the parade was absolutely one of the greatest days of my life. Initially I thought we would have a dozen people or so attending. But when we had 1,100 people marching with us and cheering us on, it was so emotional and I was so proud of the team

of people that worked so hard to make this a reality. Wicklow Pride will always be my baby, and I am extremely passionate about it", says Dave.

As a shortlisted nominee in the category of Campaigning and Activism, Dave is also in line as a nominee as Volunteer of the Year 2023. The ceremony takes place in Limerick on 2nd December.



Dave Thomas promoting the Wicklow Pride Festival

PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Gavin and Siobhan Kerr seek planning permission for: Conversion of Existing Attic Space including introduction of roof lights to front and rear roof slopes along with 2 no. frosted windows in gable wall of existing dwelling at 8 Eastmount Gardens, Chapel Road, Delgany, Co Wicklow A63 PX34

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

Suzanne Reynolds seeks planning permission for: Single Storey Rear Extension and Frosted Window in Side Gable at First Floor of Existing Dwelling at 24 Seacrest, 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.

ATTENTION Architects, Planners & Builders

Reach the widest readership for your planning notices in County Wicklow with Wicklow Times
Call 01 286 9111 or email pauline@localtimes.ie



Enniskerry's Big Sing for Peace



Enniskerry residents gathering for the 'Sing for Peace' event

Sunday 12th November saw the Community of Enniskerry Village come together to sing for peace, to stand together and raise funds to support victims of the Middle East conflict.

Over 200 people turned out to sing along with locals choirs including members of the Enniskerry community choir, and choirs from St Mary's church, Powerscourt church, Voices of Bray choir and the Aurora singers, and musicians who gathered under the canopy at the Schoolhouse for Art and were joined by the community who all sang songs of peace and love.

The choirs were directed by Dr Judy Lovett, accompanied by Judy on the keyboard, Johnny Honner on guitar and Jonie Griffin

playing the flute. The event was organised by Barbara Davis from Powerscourt church, with the support of the joint parishes and the community. "We couldn't have done it without you," she said, expressing her thanks. Over 2,100 euro was raised in the evening.

Rev Cathy Hallissey from Powerscourt church welcomed everyone and led a short prayer for peace for the victims, and thanked everyone for the coming out and show-

ing support. Councillor Melanie Corrigan, Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District, who was present at the event said "It was wonderful to see so many people coming to stand together in support of such a wonderful cause, the singing could be heard all over the village, and really lifted peoples spirits. It was important for the Community to be able to do something to do and thank you to the organisers."

RECRUITMENT

MOWLAM HEALTHCARE

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Contact: recruitment@mowlamhealthcare.com



"As we enjoy our freedom in Ireland, sometimes we take it for granted," says Wicklow Town pier artist Pat Davis, who recently completed his latest work which he felt compelled to create as a response to recent events in Israel and Gaza. Deeply moved by the death toll and destruction, Pat is using his latest mural as his medium to convey a message of peace. In his wording underneath an image of the Palestinian flag, he explains that "there is no justice in the Hamas terrorist attacks on Israel, and also no justice in the disproportionate response to these attacks." His personal message is: 'To earn international respect, you must respect the basic right to life'.

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PERMANENT POSITIONS

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Competition details and application forms are available at www.gov.ie/housing/recruitment

The closing date for receipt of applications is 3pm on Thursday, 30th November 2023.



An tSeirbhís Páircanna Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúla
 National Parks and Wildlife Service

Bray Chamber elects new President Kieran Ward

Bray & District Chamber of Commerce has named Kieran Ward as its new president following an election at its recent AGM. Kieran succeeds Sarah Finnegan who served as Chamber president for two years.

After receiving the chain of office, president of Bray Chamber Kieran Ward said his vision for the Chamber is clear, he hopes to increase membership and foster an environment where members not only thrive but unite in a collective effort to elevate Bray's business Community.

"By increasing membership, we broaden our network, and together, we can increase our impact. I am passionate about promoting our members businesses, through our social media platforms, collaborative initiatives, events and strategic partnerships, we can showcase the diverse talents and offerings within our community."

Kieran said he believes "together we can ensure that Bray continues to be a vibrant hub of commerce, where every business has the opportunity to shine. Let us look forward to the coming year with enthusiasm, unity, and a shared commitment to the prosperity of Bray's Business Community, I am very excited to serve as Bray Chamber's president."

Kieran is no stranger to Bray Chamber having served on the Executive Council for many years and as Vice President for the last year and Hon Secretary previously. Kieran is a director of Condor Publishers Ltd.

His work takes him all over the country,

where he has built up a strong network with other businesses, towns and Chambers.

"Kieran has extensive experience in public/community partnerships, and we are excited about the energy and vision that he will bring to the Chamber," said outgoing president Sarah Finnegan.

On accepting the Chain of office, Kieran acknowledged the Executive Council and Chamber office, for the hard work and time they have given to the Chamber. Kieran

concluded by saying he was determined to make Bray Chamber go from strength to strength and he is looking forward to the challenge.



New Bray Chamber President Kieran Ward with outgoing President Sarah Finnegan

Blessington business wins prestigious SEAI Award

Blessington sustainable energy company Symphony Energy has won the prestigious Sustainability via Digital Technologies in Construction and Buildings Award at the 2023 SEAI Awards.

The accolade acknowledges Symphony's work on the Smart Optimisation project at 1 Cumberland Place, owned by Hibernia Real Estate Group (Hibernia REG). 1 Cumberland Place, an 11,984 sq.m office build-

ing, already boasted LEED Platinum status in 2018, showcasing its commitment to energy efficiency. Symphony Energy's five-month engagement with its Smart Optimisation solution at this cutting-edge building yielded remark-

able results - an outstanding 76% reduction in HVAC energy usage and a new Energy Use Intensity (EUI) of 44.

This achievement not only surpasses the Paris Proof 2030 EUI target for air-conditioned office buildings but positions 1 Cumberland Place to meet its Paris Proof 2050 EUI target by replacing the current boiler with an energy-efficient heat pump. Neil Menzies, Director of

Sustainability at Hibernia REG, remarked, "Our recent partnership with Symphony has helped us achieve incredible levels of energy efficiency. We see them playing a key role in our target of becoming a net-zero carbon and climate-resilient business by 2030."

Tom Ascough, Managing Director of Symphony Energy, added, "The remarkable energy performance now exhibited by 1

Cumberland Place showcases the cutting-edge capabilities of the technology we deployed. This achievement can be replicated in a multitude of commercial buildings, marking a significant stride towards a more sustainable future."

The awards ceremony took place on November 16, 2023, at Mansion House in Dublin.

"As an industry, we need to look beyond BERs and construction-only

green building certifications to focus on in-use building performance," said Neil Menzies, Director of Sustainability Hibernia REG.

"Having achieved LEED Platinum at 1CP in 2018, our recent partnership with Symphony has since helped us achieve incredible levels of energy efficiency. We see them playing a key role in our target of becoming a net-zero carbon and climate-resilient business by 2030."

Daata Tandoori shortlisted at Just Eat Awards

Wicklow and South Dublin based Daata Tandoori has been shortlisted at the 10th annual Just Eat Awards. The shortlist was announced by TV presenter Muireann O'Connell who officially launched the awards earlier this month.

This year, 65 nominees have been shortlisted across 12 award categories, Voting now open until Wednesday, 13 December. Voting for the Awards opens today and Wicklow food lovers can vote for their favourite local takeaway until 13th December. To celebrate the launch, anyone who casts a vote will be in with a chance to win FREE Takeaway for a year. The Just Eat Awards winners will be announced at a gala ceremony hosted by Muireann O'Connell in March 2024.



Muireann O'Connell

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