

# LOCAL Wicklow Times

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Tuesday 7th May 2024 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray, A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

# RENTERS' GRIM REALITY

The grim picture for Wicklow renters was revealed in stark detail last week with the publication of the Rent Index Report for the fourth quarter of 2023 by the Residential Tenancies Board (RTB). The report shows that rents in Co. Wicklow have increased 9.1 percent from last year. Wicklow now has the 3rd highest rents in the country for existing tenancies, and Wicklow saw year-on-year inflation for new tenancies of 6.5 percent.

Sinn Fein TD John Brady said that the eye-watering rent increases in Wicklow show that the Government has no plan for a private rental sector that is spiralling out of control.

Deputy Brady said "The latest RTB rent report shows a private rental sector continuing

to spiral out of control. Average new rents in Wicklow are now €18,624 a year and existing rents are €15,732 a year. For renters, this means rents continue to spiral out of control while supply continues to contract.

"How are regular working people in Wicklow expected to

afford these rents? How are they to save for a deposit to buy a home? Month on month, year on year, rents continue to rise for new and existing tenants and inside and outside rent pressure zones.

"It is clear that the Government has no plan for a private rental sector spiralling out of



To celebrate Earth Day, St. Patrick's National School in Greystones had the team from 'Love The Bees' into the school to talk all things bees with the students. Pictured are Colm Penston, Archie Johnston, Elizabeth Lewis, Yvonne Johnston and Rachel Harper with the Bees. See more, page 6.

**VOTE No.1**  
**CLLR. JOE**  
**BEHAN**  
**INDEPENDENT**



086 8375602

joebehan@outlook.ie



control. Their renters tax credit is simply not enough. We need an emergency ban on rent increases for three years and a full month's rent back in every private renter's pocket.

"But, more importantly, we need the government to dramatically increase investment in and delivery of genuinely affordable homes to rent and buy. Last year, just 1,000 affordable homes were delivered by the government and many of these were too expensive for most working people.

"Only a change of government, with Eoin Ó Broin as Housing Minister, will truly address the housing crisis. Voting for Sinn Féin on June 7th in the local and European elections is the first step to getting this disastrous government out of office, and undoing decades of disastrous

Fianna Fail and Fine Gael housing policy."

Jennifer Whitmore Social Democrat TD said: "The figures we have seen in the RTB report are staggering. In Wicklow right now, the average cost of a new rental is €1569. The average for existing tenants across the county is €1311. This tells us that the cost of renting in Wicklow is increasing, and the Government is not addressing it.

"Demand for housing in Wicklow has risen in recent years, reflecting the national trend. A major contributing factor is that people who rent in Dublin, many of them from the capital themselves, cannot afford to buy there, so they must look to other counties such as Wicklow, Meath, and Kildare if they want to try and own their own homes. Government is overseeing a 'doughnut'

style of housing development by hollowing out the city centre of

any affordability and therefore pushing everyone out to the sur-

rounding areas, which is leading to increased

Continued on page 5

LOCAL ELECTION CANDIDATE

## Shane LANGRELL

FINE GAEL

Shane Langrell, a proud Wicklow man living in Ashford with his wife, Roisin, and daughters, Alannah, Kerrie, and Erin, understands the challenges and joys of rural life. With children attending schools in both Ashford and Wicklow, Shane recognizes the diverse needs of urban and rural communities. Shane commented, "This campaign is not about me; it is about the people. As a father to three daughters at different stages of their lives, my decision to run for election is driven by a deep sense of dedication towards our communities."

I am dedicated to ensuring that we have access to affordable housing, simplified planning permission processes, improved infrastructure, schools, reliable transportation, essential amenities, and accessible childcare services. My commitment is to create a better future for all, where the needs of both the present and future generations are met with care and understanding. I am committed to being honest, hardworking, and getting things done. I believe that every voice matters, and if elected, I promise to deliver results and be a strong voice for the people and the communities within the council."

Vote number 1 Shane Langrell for a representative who truly cares about our community's priorities.

☎ 087 417 1521  
✉ shanelangrellwicklow@gmail.com  
👤 Shane Langrell



Tommy Byrne and Laura O'Sullivan of the Arklow Silver Band at the Canadh Le Cheile concert in St. Saviour's Church, Arklow.

# One Hundred Years Young

Arklow's Maya celebrates her 100th birthday this week

Arklow's Maya Arnold was born in India during the days of the Raj to Brigadier General Leo Mackay-Forbes and his wife Adelaide (née Edwards).

She left her parents' home in Ranikhet in the foothills of the Himalayas at the age of 7 and was sent to boarding school in Dorset, England. She served with distinction in the WRENS during the war.

Her parents retired to County Meath in 1947 and while staying with their friends the Lecky-Watsons of Altamont, Co. Carlow, Maya met her future husband Toddy Arnold from nearby Killedmond Rectory. Their wedding reception was held at Altamont in August 1948. The newlyweds left soon afterwards for Nigeria where Toddy was in the Colonial Service.

They returned to Ireland in 1962 and made a home with their 4 daughters Sally, Gilly, Jane and Susie in Kilquade Hill House, surrounded by horses, dogs, cats and chickens! Their lives revolved

around Delgany, Greystones and Newtownmountkennedy.

Maya loved her fishing and holidays were spent near Lough Conn in Mayo. She was an active supporter of the RLNI and the Newcastle Saturday Market well into her 90s and a stalwart of Kilruddery shoot dinners until recently.

Maya made her home at The Lodge at Kilquade where she turned the garden into an oasis of wild flowers and climbing roses. She is the proud and loving grandmother of 9 and great-grandmother of 12 who all adore her.

Maya moved into the wonderful care of the Asgard Lodge Nursing Home in Arklow last year.

Let's raise a glass to Maya, a wonderful woman with a sharp wit and wicked sense of humour who is cherished by her family.



Maya Arnold from Arklow, who turns 100 this week.

## Wicklow Library events

Come along to the Wicklow Library Wednesday 22nd May from 12:30 - 3:00 pm for their Cafe Bealtaine event. Afternoon tea will be served and the Wicklow Community Choir will be singing, along with a few other entertainment surprises!

Also, on Thursday 16th May 7:00 - 8:00 pm author join Sadie Harpur as she discusses her new book about her upbringing in the Irish foster system, her struggles with undiagnosed Dyslexia and Apraxia and how writing helped in her journey to heal and ultimately triumph.

To book in please call 0404-67025 or email: Wicklib@wicklowcoco.ie

## Kilmacanogue History Society

Kilmacanogue History Society's last Talk of this Season is on Monday 13th May at 8p.m in Kilmacanogue Parish Hall- all welcome. It promises to be a fascinating one. "We have Marc McMenamin, who previously has kept our audience on the edge of their seats speaking on "29,000 feet above the sea, George Mallory, Ireland and the 1924 Everest Expedition." An Irish Doctor from Co. Cork was the last person to see Mallory and Irvine as they approached the summit and he wrote a detailed account of the events of that fateful day that Marc has researched. Mystery surrounds whether they actually made it to the top before Sir Edmund Hillary.

## Walk in Avoca

Pope Pius XII dedicated 1954 as Marian Year, a year of devotion to Our Lady. Avoca's mining community marked the occasion by building a

grotto to the Blessed Virgin at Ballygahan on the edge of the West Avoca minesite. This year marks the 70th anniversary of Marian Year. To commemorate the event and in tribute to the men who built the grotto, the Avoca Parish community are organising a walk from SS Mary & Patricks church to the Grotto on Sunday 26th May at 6.30pm. "We invite everyone to walk with us. We look forward to seeing you all on Sunday 26th."

## Purple House hosts public information talk

An Information talk on the benefits of Oncology Acupuncture with Mercedes Ipina, Purple House Therapist, will take place on Friday 17th May from 10am -11am in Purple House. All welcome, for further information please call 01-2866966 or visit purplehouse.ie

## Walking with friends

Do you want to walk with friends? Walking Group meets at Brockagh Centre on Mondays 10am. Take it at your own pace, all welcome.

## Scrap collection

Donate your scrap at the Brockagh Resource Centre from 3rd to 7th May. Some of the items you can bring are biscuit tins, steel oil tanks, steel window frames, steel coal bunkers, car batteries, radiators, solid fuel cookers, sheep wire, bicycles, old cars without the tyres, steel wheelbarrows, golf irons, etc. STRICTLY No fridges, freezers, cookers, timber, plastics or tyres! Please do not remove scrap or metal from the premises. CAMERA IN OPERATION! You can contact the Brockagh Resource Centre by phone on 0404 45600 ( Mon-Fri 9am-5pm), email us at brockaghoffice@gmail.com, www.brockaghresource-centre.ie.

## Glendalough Market

The next event is on Sunday, May 12th. Come shop indoor and outdoor with a variety of items for sale with plenty of bargains from gifts, clothes, plants, books, toys, aloe vera products, artwork, tools, household items etc. You might be a keen bargain hunter or enjoy browsing for affordable gifts.

Open to the public from 10am to 3pm. Tea, coffee and food snacks are available. The barrier will be locked from 6pm Saturday evening until 8am Sunday morning. You can contact 0404 45600 (Wed-Fri 9am to 2pm) or email carboot-brockagh@gmail.com. All stallholders must pre book their space or no entry on the day. The Glendalough Market(carboot) is once a month on the 2nd Sun(except Jan/Feb).

## New exhibition reveals hidden heritage of the Wicklow Mountains

Local heritage initiative Heritage Hiking Wicklow is launching a new exhibition showcasing the unique history and mythology of the Wicklow Mountains at the Wicklow Town Library on May 14th.

The exhibition, entitled "Legendary Landscapes: Hidden Stories of the Wicklow Mountains", will shine a spotlight on lesser-known heritage sites in the Wicklow Mountains area, bringing their stories to life through a series of imaginative illustrated photographs featuring all original artwork by local artist Fionn Clissmann. The exhibition will take place in the second-floor exhibition space at the Wicklow Town Library, and will run from May 14th to May 29th. Opening night will take place on May 14th at 18:00; light refreshments and snacks will be provided.

"Legendary Landscapes" is the latest offering from Heritage Hiking Wicklow, a citizen heritage initiative founded in 2023 to raise awareness and appreciation of the rich natural and cultural heritage of the Wicklow Mountains. This is the first exhibition organised by the Heritage Hiking Wicklow initiative, which to date has focused primarily on digital outreach with an emphasis on multimedia content creation. In addition to the project's own social media channels, the HHW initiative is involved in a number of digital collaborations with regional

stakeholders, including a new podcast with the Wicklow Mountains National Park and a growing collection of blog posts with Wicklow Tourism.

Isabel Clissmann is the founder of Heritage Hiking Wicklow and a life-long Wicklow hiker. "I was raised hiking in the Wicklow Mountains with my family from a very early age, so

for me, this project is sort of my love-letter to the Wicklow Mountains", says Isabel. "Most people don't realise that these hills are full of history and folklore, as well as nature, and I'm thrilled to have the chance to share these hidden heritage stories". Isabel has a BA in History and Political Science, and her work in heritage has taken her to Czechia, Romania, and Slovenia,

before bringing her home to Wicklow. Isabel is also the lead organiser of the "Legendary Landscapes" exhibition, which will mark her exhibition debut.

To learn more about the upcoming "Legendary Landscapes" exhibition, follow the Heritage Hiking Wicklow page on Instagram (@heritage\_hiking) or email Isabel at atheritagehiking@gmail.com

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<p>Brian Robinson B.B.L.S., L.L.M. State Solicitor Eilish Bradshaw B.A., L.L.B., L.L.M.</p>	<p>Clare-Ann Temple L.L.B. Ciara O'Sullivan B.B.L.S., (Euro) Hannah Stockwell-Quinn B.C.L., L.L.M.</p>
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# 'Environmental catastrophe'

## Large oil spill threatens Wicklow's wildlife

Kildare Wildlife Rescue (KWR) mobilised its resources last Thursday in response to a significant oil spill along the coast of Wexford, Wicklow, and Dublin, which impacted numerous seabirds. At the time of going to press, the cause and source location of the spill, which poses a serious threat to local wildlife populations, remained unknown. The EPA is to be asked to investigate.

Reports of oiled seabirds, predominantly Common Guillemots, also known as Common Murres (*Uria aalge*), started coming in from various locations on the afternoon of Wednesday 1st May, spanning from Carnsore Point, Co Wexford, to Dalkey Island, Dublin. Areas notably affected include Greystones, Brittas Bay, Newcastle Beach, Wicklow Town, and Curracloe Beach, among others.

Given the prevalence of Guillemots among the affected species, it is likely that the oil spill originated near their breeding or feeding grounds. KWR's trained responders have been actively engaged in reaching reported locations to provide assistance. A number of Razorbills (*Alca torda*) have also been found.

"Last night, three Guillemots were already admitted to the Oiled Wildlife Unit at KWR's Centre in Kildare Town, and we anticipate many more arrivals today," stated KWR Manager Dan Donohoe on Thursday. "The birds are very badly covered by the substance and we are doing all we can to clean them and treat them."

The effect of the oil on the birds' health is severe. As the oil adheres to the feathers, it causes them to clump together and separate, compromising their waterproofing ability and leaving the animal's delicate skin vulnerable to temperature fluctuations, leading to



Kildare Wildlife Rescue in Greystones

hypothermia. In an instinctive response, the birds attempt to remove the oil from their feathers through preening, inadvertently ingesting the substance and inflicting severe damage to their internal organs.

Kildare Wildlife Rescue is collaborating closely with the Oiled Wildlife Response Network, BirdWatch Ireland, Seal Rescue Ireland, and the National Parks and Wildlife Service to coordinate a swift and effective response to all reported cases of oiled birds. Unfortunately many of the affected birds are still too mobile to contain and are in inaccessible locations in water or on coastal islands.

Members of the public are urged to refrain from handling oiled birds due

to the potential dangers posed by unknown and potentially carcinogenic substances. Instead, all sightings should be promptly reported to [info@kwr.ie](mailto:info@kwr.ie), accompanied by photos or videos, a Google Map pin, and a contact phone number.

"While walking your dogs, please keep them on leads as sick and exhausted birds will come ashore. These chemicals are harmful to animals," said Pearse Stokes, KWR Rescue Coordinator.

"While it is still early to quantify the full extent of this environmental catastrophe, the impact is already profound, with potentially hundreds of animals affected. Ireland has no official Oil Spill Response Plan for Wildlife, all the people you see helping are vol-

unteers. Please be supportive."

Kildare Wildlife Rescue urges public vigilance and cooperation in this critical time to mitigate further harm to our precious coastal wildlife.

Speaking on Thursday, Jennifer Whitmore TD said expressed grave concern. Deputy Whitmore, who is the Social Democrats' spokesperson on biodiversity, said: "I am shocked to learn of this incident. I want to acknowledge the efforts of Kildare Wildlife Rescue, who are leading the care and rehabilitation of any birds found covered in oil.

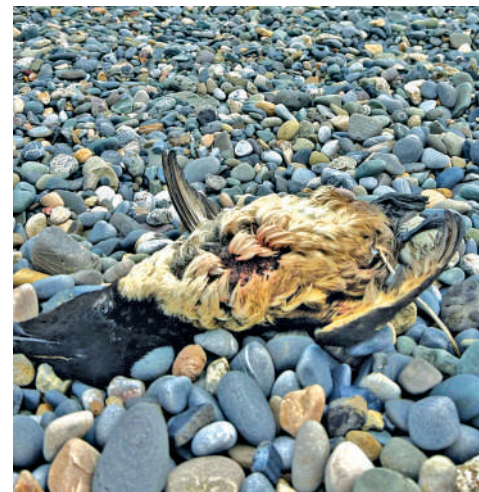
"The Irish Coast Guard is aware of the incident and efforts are

now under way to establish the source of the oil. This situation represents an unacceptable threat to our already vulnerable seabird population. The Government must offer every necessary support to the organisations tasked with rescuing, cleaning and rehabilitating the affected birds.

"In the meantime, those involved in the rescue operation have requested the public to stay off these beaches and keep their dogs under control at all times. Ultimately, what is needed is a coordinated national strategy to respond to incidents of this nature, which should include voluntary organisations as well as State bodies such as the

National Parks and Wildlife Service.

"It is vital that the source of the oil is identified as soon as possible, with those found responsible held fully accountable."



Dead Razorbill in Greystones



Oil-covered Guillemot in KWR Centre

VOTE 1

LOCAL ELECTION CANDIDATE

FINE GAEL

Peter STAPLETON

Baltinglass LEA



Continue Preference for Cllr Avril Cronin & Cllr Edward Timmins



Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta an Oirdheiscirt

South East Technological University

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Saturday 11 May 2024 | 10am to 2pm

Visit SETU's university campus in Carlow and speak to lecturers about the wide range of CAO, part-time, and postgraduate courses. Explore world-class facilities and experience the unique atmosphere of SETU.



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# Malachai Duddy contesting Locals



Malachai Duddy, knocking on door of Bray Town Hall

Local activist and barrister Malachai Duddy has announced that he is contesting the local elections in Bray East as an Independent candidate.

In the 2019 local elections Malachai Duddy missed by one vote being elected to Wicklow County Council. Addressing family, friends and supporters, he announced the launch of his campaign saying that he thanked those who encouraged him to run, and the support he has received 'on the doors' of so many people across the town of Bray. "Wicklow County Council needs a fresh voice for Bray, and with your support, I can be your voice," he said.

Addressing issues that face the town, Duddy noted that "in particular,

since 2019 criminality has become more visible in the town, with antisocial activity becoming normalised. Garda resources are being reduced, with obvious and unacceptable consequences for the people of Bray. This must change.

"Bray needs enhance high quality youth and sports facilities with Ardmore Rovers, St Peters and Wolfe Tone Youthclub needing particular attention."

"The Housing Crisis continues unabated: it needs to be confronted head on with new affordable homes as well as

practical town centre solutions such as making 'above shop' accommodation generally available."

"We must reverse the dilapidation of Bray Main Street and support existing businesses. With the imminent opening of a large anchor tenant, the Bray Town Centre development will increase foot fall, but the town continues to await the opening of a cinema. 'Above shop' living would enhance the centre of Bray, and would economically feed into local businesses."

"The Dargle River has seriously suffered a deterioration in habitat and

wildlife, with the river now closed to salmon and seatrout fishing. Much of the Dargle River Flood Protection scheme has concluded but development on the existing flood plains threatens Little Bray and its residents. Reason must prevail."

"Sensitive development is needed in Bray, which cherishes our historic townscape, incorporating architectural heritage into the heart of new schemes. Too often the easier solution of demolition of the towns heritage is accepted rather than establishing an enlightened approach to development. In this our

green spaces must be preserved as amenities, with the town's greatest amenity of Bray Head and its Cliff Walk being preserved and rejuvenated."

"Transport options in Bray seem to compete with each other rather than complement a coherent system of public transport, where various parts of the town feed into the commercial centre of the town and the railway station. Bray needs better local transport, with a town loop bus service, serving the various communities of the town with town centre connectivity. We need a people centred approach to Bray's congestion and transport issues."

Malachai Duddy is from a well-known and respected local family, which is related to some of Bray's oldest families. Having attended St Patrick's and St Cronin's primary schools, he was a pupil at St Brendan's Woodbrook College. He is a graduate of the University of Dublin, Trinity College and King's Inns. Malachai Duddy has served as President, Chair and Vice-Chair of Bray Credit Union, served on the Executive of Bray & District Chamber of Commerce, as well as chairing the Bray 1916 Commemoration Committee, in each case in a voluntary capacity.

## Increased funding to support Council's community functions



Cllr Melanie Corrigan, Chair of the Local community Development committee (LCDC)

Wicklow County Council is to receive an increase in funding to support its community functions. This additional funding will in particular support the work of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) through Additional Staff Resource (ASR) payments.

All 31 local authorities are to benefit from Additional Staff Resource (ASR) funding which will support the implementation and monitoring of Local Economic and Community Plans by local authorities.

The allocation of additional funding arises from a comprehensive review of the work of the

LCDCs. The review found that since their creation, the LCDCs have been performing an ever expanding range of functions and there was a clearly evidenced need for continued funding to support them in delivering upon their core work. ASR funding has been provided annually to the local authorities since 2017

as a contribution towards their community functions, and in particular the staffing of the LCDCs

Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District and Chair of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Melanie Corrigan, who took over the position of Chair of the Wicklow LCDC last December said "Local community development committees are responsible for co-ordinating, planning and overseeing local and community development funding, and working

with and bringing together community development programmes and interventions. The Wicklow LCDC is responsible for the management and oversight of programmes such as the social Inclusion programme (SICAP) and LEADER Rural Development Programme. I welcome this additional funding which will support the work being done by the staff and committee to implement these programmes."

Laurie Kearon, Fine Gael's candidate for South Wicklow

has welcomed the announcement, stating: "This significant increase of nearly €89,000 in funding is a testament to the vital role of community development in our county. It directly enhances the capabilities of Wicklow's Local Community Development Committee, ensuring they have the necessary resources to continue their important work. This investment reflects the Govt's commitment to strengthening community ties and supporting sustainable local growth."



Laurie Kearon



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

### NOTICE OF ELECTION

#### Local Authority: WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

An election of members for each of the local electoral areas of the above-mentioned local authority is about to be held.

Nomination papers may be obtained from the address below during the usual office hours or by emailing [hpurcell@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:hpurcell@wicklowcoco.ie).

A person may nominate himself/herself as a candidate or may, with his/her consent, be nominated by a proposer who is registered as a local government elector in the local electoral area of the local authority for which he/she proposes to nominate the candidate.

A nomination paper from a candidate of a registered political party must have a certificate of political affiliation attached which must be produced to me with his/her completed nomination paper.

If no certificate is attached, the candidate must, before the latest time for receiving nominations, either –

- secure 15 assents to the nomination by way of statutory declarations by local government electors registered in the relevant local electoral area (forms available from me or the registration authority), or
- make a deposit of €100 (deposit may also be made on the candidate's behalf).

The latest time for receiving nominations is **12 noon on Saturday the 18th day of May, 2024.**

Completed nomination papers may be delivered to me in person by the candidate or his/her proposer at any time when I am at my office, from 10am on Saturday 11th day of May, 2024 until 12 noon on the last day for receiving nominations.

I am required by law to attend to receive nominations between 10am and 12 noon and between 2pm and 5pm on Friday the 17th day of May, 2024 and between 10am and 12 noon on Saturday the 18th day of May, 2024.

If the election is contested, a poll will be taken on the 7th day of June, 2024 between the hours of 7:00 am and 10:00 pm.

Lorraine Gallagher,  
Returning Officer,  
Wicklow County Council,  
County Buildings,  
Wicklow Town, A67 FW96.

Date 1st day of May, 2024.

### FÓGRA TOGHCHÁIN

#### Údarás Áitiúil: COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN

Táthar ar tí toghchán a reáchtáil chun comhaltaí do gach aon cheann de thoghlimistéir áitiúla a thoghadh don údarás áitiúil atá luaite thuas.

Is féidir páipéir ainmniúcháin a fháil ón seoladh thíos le linn gnáthuaire oifige nó trí ríomhphoist a sheoladh chuig [hpurcell@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:hpurcell@wicklowcoco.ie).

Féadfaidh duine é féin nó í féin a ainmniú mar iarrthóir i dtoghchán nó féadfaidh duine eile (is duine atá cláraithe mar thoghthóir rialtais áitiúil i limistéar an údarás áitiúil a bhfuil sé beartaithe ag an duine an t-iarrthóir a ainmniú dó), mar mholtóir, é nó í a ainmniú, lena thoiliú nó lena toiliú i scríbhinn.

Ní mór deimhniú cleamhnachta polaitíochta a bheith ag gabháil le páipéir ainmniúcháin ó iarrthóir páirtí polaitíochta cláraithe agus caithfear é a thabhairt ar aird domsa lena fhoirm/lena foirm ainmniúcháin chomhlánaithe.

Mura mbeidh aon deimhniú tugtha ar aird ní mór don iarrthóir, roimh an am is déanaí chun ainmniúcháin a fháil, ceachtar den dá rud seo a dhéanamh –

- cúig aontú dhéag leis an ainmniúchán a fháil trí dhearbhuíthe reachtúla ó thoghthóir rialtais áitiúil a bheidh cláraithe sa toghlimistéar áitiúil ábhartha (tá na foirmeacha ar fáil uaimse nó ón údarás cláraithe), nó
- éarlais de €100 a íoc (is féidir éarlais a íoc thar ceann an iarrthóra freisin).

Is é an t-am is déanaí chun ainmniúcháin a ghlacadh ná **12 meán lae Dé Sathairn, an 18ú lá de Bhealtaine, 2024.**

Is féidir leis an iarrthóir nó lena mholtóir/a moltóir páipéir ainmniúcháin chomhlánaithe a sheachadadh chugam i bpearsa tráth ar bith a bhím i m'óifig, ó 10am ar an Satharn 11ú lá de Bhealtaine, 2024 go dtí 12 meán lae ar an lá is déanaí le hainmniúcháin a ghlacadh.

Tá ceangal orm faoin dlí a bheith i láthair le glacadh le hainmniúcháin idir 10am agus 12 meán lae agus idir 2pm agus 5pm Dé hAoine an 17ú lá de Bhealtaine, 2024 agus idir 10rn agus 12 meán lae Dé Sathairn an 18ú lá de Bhealtaine, 2024.

Má bhíonn toghchán comhraic ann, reáchtálfar vótaíocht ar an 7ú lá de Mheitheamh, 2024 idir na huaireanta 7:00 am agus 10:00 pm.

Lorraine Gallagher,  
Ceann Comhairimh,  
Oifig na gConntae,  
Baile Chill Mhantáin. A67 FW96.

1 lá de Bhealtaine, 2024.

# RENTERS' GRIM REALITY

Continued from Page 1...

household prices in Wicklow. The use of the build-to-rent model is also driving people to Wicklow, many of whom want to own their own homes, even if it means having to leave their communities.

"Rents in our towns are far too high right now, and this is a direct result of government policy. In Greystones, the average rent for existing tenants is €1735. In Bray East, new tenancies are coming in at an average of €1441. In Bray West, the existing tenancies are an average of €1598.

"Renters in Wicklow need a break. They need a rent freeze to halt further increases, reintroducing the no-fault eviction bans, and this government to act decisively to bring the rental market back under control."

Also reacting to the report, Bray Labour Party councillor Anne Ferris said "The latest report from the Residential Tenancies Board (RTB) is a stark reminder of the deepening housing crisis facing our community in Bray and right around the county of Wicklow. The 9% increase in rents in the final quarter of 2023 is alarming, but sadly not surprising. This sharp rise, coupled with

a significant drop in new tenancies, highlights the urgent need for action to address Ireland's housing crisis.

"For renters in Bray, this means rents continue to spiral out of control while supply continues to contract. How are any regu-



lar working people expected to afford these rents? Housing and affordable housing is constantly coming up when I'm canvassing in Bray. This Government inaction has simply failed to address the housing crisis with sufficient ambition or urgency. It is time that local authorities, including Wicklow

County Council, draw up an affordable housing building programme for people in need.

"The Labour Party has a vision for fair housing. Labour's Renter's Rights Bill, introduced in 2021, offers a constructive solution to the ongoing crisis. By addressing 'no-fault' evictions and providing greater security of tenure, our Bill could offer a lifeline to renters facing uncertainty and instability in their housing situations.

"Additionally, challenging the developer-led approach of the current Government is essential. We need to build more houses and we know relying solely on private development will not solve our housing crisis.

"The reality is that the Government continues to repackage its old, unworkable policies without grasping the nettle on renters' rights. Labour's vision for a fair and affordable rental sector challenges this status quo, advocating for the rights and security of renters across Ireland. Ireland needs secure affordable housing, security of tenure for renters and a more ambitious public housing programme - we need housing that works for all."

# Wicklow Port works to begin

An Taoiseach Simon Harris has confirmed that bed-leveling works are due to begin shortly in Wicklow Port. The Department of Housing and Local Government recently granted a Foreshore Licence to Wicklow County Council to carry out works as necessary.

The Taoiseach received confirmation from the Department of Housing that Alpha Marine Services have been appointed to conduct these works, and are expected to commence in mid-May.

The Taoiseach said, I am delighted to announce that works will soon be going ahead in Wicklow Harbour. Over recent months, I have been in touch with local businesses and residents, who regularly use the port and impressed upon me the need for these works to take place as soon as possible. Wicklow Port is a vital resource for County Wicklow, and over time has been encountering issues due to the build up of material along the Port's seabed. These works

will go towards addressing these issues, and I am glad to confirm that they are expected to begin later this month."

In relation to carrying out a Full Maintenance Dredge of the Harbour the following applications have been submitted by Wicklow County Council recently: Dumping at Sea Application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This licence will be for a period of 8 years; Application for a Maritime Usage Licence to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA). This licence will be for a period of 8 years.

Separately environmental consultants AYESA are well advanced in carrying out a study to identify a potential new dumping at sea site close to Wicklow Harbour.

A number of potential sites have now been identified. Relevant stakeholders will be consulted for comments on the proposed potential locations. If a suitable site is found Environmental studies can then take place.

## Bryan

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# Greystones students swarm to learn more about bees

To celebrate Earth Day, St. Patrick's National School in Greystones had the team from 'Love The Bees' into the school to talk all things bees with the students.



Elizabeth Lewis

Speaking about the workshop Rachel Harper, Principal of St. Patrick's National School, Greystones said: "We are always looking for new things to do with the children to excite them about nature. One of our parents, Yvonne Johnston holds bee workshops and she, along with her colleague Colm Penston and their team of 50,000 bees, came in to show our students. The children learned all about pollination and the different bee species we have in Ireland and they got to see, hear and smell the bee colony. It was a real treat for them. Seeing a bee on a flower will never be the same for them again now thanks to Yvonne and Colm."

Elizabeth Lewis in second class said: "It was so exciting to be up close to the bees without fearing they would sting me. I have always been a bit afraid of them, but not now. They looked different from what I thought they would and I never knew it was the girls that did all the work! I even got to taste some honey!"

Yvonne Johnston is parent to two boys in St. Patrick's said: "It was so nice to bring the bees in this morning. It never stops amazing me how much the kids get out of seeing the bees that close up in the observation hive - their faces literally light up when they are watch-

ing the bees work away. Most of them are aware of #savethebees but they don't always know how fascinating these little creatures are and it is great to encourage that natural curiosity."

Colm Penston (Arklow) from Love The Bees, who teaches the Adult Beginner's course in Ashford Bee Association said: "We can't stop talking about bees and telling people about how interesting they are. We get so much out of bringing the hives to people who don't ordinarily have access to them. It's very rewarding to see what everyone gets out of it - there is no age limit, from aged 2 to 102, people are always buzzing by the time we are leaving."

Love The Bees is a series of workshops for both Primary and Secondary School students. All workshops target different areas of the curriculum and are sure to create a buzz in the classroom. The fun and interactive sessions increase the students' overall environmental knowledge, while they cover subjects around, STEM, Biodiversity, Food Production and Sustainability. The team also does workshops for Corporates and Nursing Homes. To find out more about the Love The Bees Workshops, contact Yvonne through [www.birdbrain.ie/love-the-bees](http://www.birdbrain.ie/love-the-bees).



Wilde Thompson listening to the murmur of the bees

# Clean Coasts Roadshow comes to Greystones

To celebrate Earth Day on 22nd April, Clean Coasts hosted a family fun afternoon in Greystones as part of the annual Clean Coasts Roadshow series. The event was organised with the help of North Wicklow Clean Coasts Group and the Greystones Junior Tidy Towns.



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Clean Coasts Biodiversity Officer, Liane Costello was present on the day and hosted an afternoon of fun filled biodiversity activities.

"We started the celebrations off with a presentation on biodiversity with games and activities for the children to partake in. The children learned all about marine biodiversity, the work of Clean Coasts, species they might find on their local beach and the impact of plastic pollution on our marine ecosystems. After listening to some bird sounds, we headed to the beach to try and hear the wildlife in action. The children were then given a 'Biodiversity Bingo' card with a species indicator list and a map of the South Beach. The children were instructed to locate the species on the beach, without touching them, and mark their corresponding location on the map. A habitat mapping activity like this is great for engaging children in their natural environment while also raising awareness surrounding the biodiversity crisis. Thankfully the weather held out for the duration of the afternoon which meant all species were located on the beautiful South Beach of Greystones that North Wicklow Clean Coasts group work so hard to protect.



A Clean Coasts Roadshow to celebrate Earth Day took place at Greystones Library and Greystones South Beach in Co. Wicklow.

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# Cllr. Melanie CORRIGAN

*As your TD in Wicklow, I've seen firsthand the dedication and energy Councillor Melanie Corrigan brings to Bray West. Melanie is committed to delivering results that matter to the community. Melanie will continue to be a strong voice for you in the Council.*

On June 7<sup>th</sup> **VOTE 1** Melanie Corrigan!

An Taoiseach  
*Simon Harris TD*



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Working in your area with An Taoiseach Simon Harris TD, John Mullins and Seán Kelly.



Sinn Féin local election candidate in West Wicklow Aidan Kinsella in Coolboy

# Public pathways and roads in Coolboy in urgent need of repair

West Wicklow Sinn Féin local election candidate Aidan Kinsella has called on Wicklow County Council to act immediately to ensure that urgently needed repair work on the public pathways and roads in the village of Coolboy are carried out. The current situation in the village represents a risk to both motorists and pedestrians.

Kinsella said: "I am very concerned about the condition of a number of roads and pathways in the village of Coolboy. The current situation poses a risk to both pedestrians and motorists. The state of a number of pathways in the village present a hazard to pedestrians, particularly children and older people.

"There is also a danger of cars suffering unnecessary damage due to the scale of the problem with potholes, and the general

state of the road surface in places. The people of Coolboy pay their road tax the same as everyone else in the country, and they have a right to be able to drive on roads which are fit for purpose.

"It is an unacceptable situation for residents in the village. Working along with my party colleague John Brady TD, we have been in contact with Wicklow County Council to push for urgently needed repair

work on all footpaths in the village to be carried out as quickly as possible.

"The areas of the village in question are the footpaths and roads around the square area, and others leading to the housing estate's, local shop, pub and the well-established handball alley. Local residents are extremely unhappy that the situation around the footpaths and roads in the village, has been let go this long. This issue have been ongo-

ing over the past 15 years.

"I have been contacted by a large number of local people in the area, who are very concerned that the current state of the roads and pathways present a significant safety issue for locals. I am calling on Wicklow County Council to take action as soon as possible to address these issues, as a failure to do so represents an unacceptable risk to the health and safety of the people in Coolboy."

## 'Disability access play facilities needed at Giltspur Heights Playground'

Bray Sinn Fein Councillor Mick Ryan has called on Wicklow County Council to install a Disability Access swing, and sensory walls at the Giltspur Heights Playground in Bray.

Cllr Ryan said: "The lack of disability access facilities at Giltspur Heights playground such as a disability access swing and sensory walls currently excludes children with disabilities the opportunity to avail of what is a wonderful resource for children in the area.

"This is wrong. Children with disabilities have the right to enjoy public play facilities, which play an important role in children's development. It is important that Wicklow County Council ensures that children with disabilities are not left to feel isolated and excluded from play activities at Giltspur Heights, or any of the other five children's playgrounds in Bray.

"Currently, none of these five playgrounds



Cllr Mick Ryan at Giltspur Heights playground

at Ballywaltrim, Giltspur Heights, People's Park, Sidmonton Park and Bray Seafront are currently accessible for children with disabilities. I believe that the Council has a responsibility to

ensure that funding is provided to have equipment installed to allow children with disabilities to be able to join in and enjoy play facilities at all of the playgrounds in the town."

## 'Additional public lighting and extended pathway a must for Kilbride and Blessington'

### Pedestrian fatalities hit 15-year high

West Wicklow Sinn Fein local election candidate Connor Byrne has called on Wicklow County Council to act to install road lighting at the outskirts of Kilbride and Blessington, and to extend the footpath on the outskirts of Kilbride. Figures released for 2023 reveal that 43 pedestrians were killed in accidents on our roads. The highest number in 15 years.

Byrne said: "Working with my party colleague John Brady TD, we have been in contact with Wicklow County Council to push for the implementation of additional street lighting in the village of Kilbride, along with the extensions of a section of footpath in the village.

"The area of the village in question is a popular walking route with locals, and there is a section of it which is currently unlit and lacking an adequate footpath. I have had a number of peo-

ple in the area approach me and raise this issue, as they feel the current situation constitutes a safety issue for locals using the road on the outskirts of both villages.

"Many people have expressed to me that they would feel safer walking at night if there were streetlights along here and a proper footpath, and that the current situation is a matter of public safety. A similar situation exists on the outskirts of Blessington, on the N81 on the Tallaght

side of the town, where inadequate lighting is creating dangerous driving conditions at night.

"There are a number of options open to the to pursue to complete this project which would make a significant contribution to road safety, particularly given the high number of pedestrian fatalities this year. 2023 saw the highest number of pedestrian deaths in 15 years. I would ask the Council to take action on these issues at the earliest opportunity."

## 'Road condition of main street in Carnew must be given priority'

Community activist and West Wicklow Sinn Fein candidate for the local elections Aidan Kinsella has criticised the failure of the council in Wicklow to address the impacts of neglect across rural Wicklow.

Speaking in Carnew he drew attention to the failure of the Council to address the state of the main street in the town. The speed ramps along the main street are lethal, he says, and they are full of potholes and pose a serious danger to all road users, he said.

"The pedestrian crossing probably shows best the neglect of rural West Wicklow, it's full of potholes, the markings have long worn off and none of the flashing amber lights to indicate the presence of the crossing are working. I have been campaigning for years to overturn the ongoing neglect of rural Wicklow. My own area here in West Wicklow has been hit more than most. It's simply not good enough. We pay our taxes here the same as anywhere else in the country, and we have a right to expect that rudimentary repairs are

carried out as necessary to ensure the proper maintenance of basic infrastructure in the area.

"The main street in Carnew has been allowed to deteriorate to an unacceptable level by Wicklow County Council. And I think that questions need to be asked of the sitting Councillors for the area as to why this is being allowed to happen. The state of the road, with potholes, the damaged speed bumps is bad enough, but the pedestrian crossing is not fit for purpose, it fails everyone, pedestrians and motorists. This should not be allowed to remain in this condition.

"I am calling on Wicklow County Council to immediately prioritise these repairs. The failure to address these matters to date, has to be a matter of concern for residents. It is unacceptable and cannot be allowed to continue."



**Cllr. Mick RYAN**

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- Improved sports and recreational facilities
- Better access to mental health and disability services
- Full Time Fire Service in Bray

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# Major funding for three local regeneration projects

Wicklow is receiving €725,000 under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme for three regeneration projects in Wicklow Town, Lacken and Glenmalure. The funding will allow for the long awaited refurbishment of Kirikee Community Hall, the Renovation of the old 1869 schoolhouse in Lacken and cafe, and the expansion of the current BMX pump track at the Murrough in Wicklow town.

Speaking on this news, An Taoiseach Simon Harris said: "I am thrilled to announce Wicklow is receiving close to €1 million in funding today for three crucial community projects. These projects once completed will have a hugely positive impact on people across Wicklow and will tackle dereliction at source. What we want to do in Wicklow and across the country is invest in our Towns and Villages to make sure they get a boost, remain vibrant and stay active. "It shouldn't be that all roads lead to the big city. We have so many untapped community resources across

Wicklow and Rural Ireland. I want to make sure that the appropriate level of investment is seen across rural Wicklow so that families can be assured they can live there, work there, and enjoy a vibrant and active community lifestyle."

The €250,000 refurbishment of Kirikee Community Hall will include the renovation of the roof and windows, remedial work on damp in ceilings and walls, insulation and sealing of roof and walls.

The proposed project in Lacken (€250,000) is to renovate the old schoolhouse, built in 1869, so it can continue to be used as a community centre - including a community cafe, a community shop with a small heritage section.

€225,000 will fund the expansion of the current BMX pump track, at the Murrough in Wicklow town, into a development of a best-in-class asphalt covered pump track, for all ages and abilities.

Green TD Steven Matthews TD said "These projects are so important for our towns and villages and more so because the ideas come from the community themselves. I am absolutely committed to ensuring that Wicklow projects get their fair share of national funding and equally to ensure that it goes to suitable projects that will support our local community on ideas that they lead on to sustain and support those locations.

Cathaoirleach of Baltinglass Municipal District Cllr Edward Timmins welcomed the funding for the old schoolhouse in Lacken.

Speaking from Blessington following the announcement Cllr. Timmins said: "This is a very welcome announcement from the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD. Today I would like to pay tribute to the Lacken Community Centre Committee for securing the €250,000 in funding to renovate the old schoolhouse. Their tireless

work will ensure the community centre will remain in addition to a community heritage centre and cafe. This will be a huge benefit to the local community and our district".

Wicklow Independent Councillor, Mary Kavanagh, has expressed her delighted on hearing the news that the proposed BMX Pump Track at the Murrough is to receive funding: "I would like to pay tribute to all those who played a part in bringing the project to this point. Thanks to local resident John Kelly who first approached me way back in September 2021. The idea appealed to me instantly, not just because of its enormous potential, but because I saw it as an extension of the great work carried out by my late sister, Cllr Pat Kavanagh, who got involved with a small committee and made the skatepark and children's playground a reality with the help of Wicklow MD Council and Wicklow Co Council.

"John and I met up, dis-



Kirikee Community Hall

approached the project and I approached County Wicklow Partnership to evaluate the project's potential. The next stage was to apply to Wicklow MD Council and Wicklow Co Council for an evaluation of the location and they were very much

on board and could see the potential for the town and surrounding areas. We had to find the means to apply for funding and the Town Team were more than happy to come on board. The Members of the Town Team worked hard on the complex funding applica-

tion which contributed greatly to the next stage, the evaluation of the project for funding. Finally I'd like to thank Minister for Arts, Heritage, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Heather Humphreys, for approving the funding which brings us to this point today."



Cllr Mary Kavanagh at The Murrough, where the BMX pump track will be enhanced.



Lacken

Advertisement

## Aileen Lennon Committed to Working for Greystones

I am based in the centre of Delgany and I have been an active member of the wider local community for the past 25 years. I have involved myself fully in many organisations in support of Greystones, Delgany, Kilcoole, Willow Grove, and Newcastle incl. Scouting for over 23 years. I was Chair of Delgany Community Council for a term, and am also a member of Delgany Tidy Towns, as well as the local eco group.

It was an absolute honour to have been asked by the Taoiseach to stand for Fine Gael in Greystones Electoral Area for the Local Elections. I am excited to be facing the challenge of running for this role and pledge that I will be both transparent and accountable at all times during this process. I will be working closely with An Taoiseach Simon Harris to help deliver the commitments I make to you.

I work in IT Program Management and I am known for my pragmatic and no-nonsense



An Taoiseach, Simon Harris.

approach to my job. If you know anything about me, you'll know that I am someone who works hard, is relentless in getting the job done and can always find solutions to any problem.

I am a firm believer in sustainable planning and have been active in making observations, participating in discussion with both developers and planners on how residential development can best be planned to service all in the community and campaigning for the simultaneous provision of schools, infrastructure improvements, and community amenities alongside all new builds.

I am a Board Member of Engaging Dementia and the Baldoyle Family Resource Centre. I know people in Kilcoole, Newcastle Kiladreenan often feel forgotten and left out. However I will work to ensure that local residents are included in the important decisions that affect their communities on a daily basis.



Aileen Lennon.



# Actions, not ambitions will secure our energy future

At SSE Renewables, work is continuing at pace to deliver Arklow Bank Wind Park 2. As we approach the key milestone of the submission of the offshore planning consent, we'd like to take the opportunity to share an update and to extend a word of thanks to our valued community stakeholders.



Our team of over 50 professionals, many of which are based locally in Arklow, Wicklow and North Wexford - have been working across a wide array of disciplines, including engineering, marine ecology and environment, consenting, legal and finance, since 2018, to bring the project to where it is today.

Arklow is the birthplace of offshore wind in Ireland. SSE Renewables is committed to delivering the next phase of offshore renewable energy and its many associated benefits to the local region.

In 2022 An Bord Pleanála granted permission for the onshore grid infrastructure which will connect the project to Ireland's electricity transmission grid, and in the same year, Wicklow County Council consented the development of an operations and maintenance facility at the South Dock, Arklow Harbour.

The remaining planning consent, for the offshore infrastructure, will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála in the coming weeks and represents a significant milestone, not only for our project team, but for Ireland, and in particular the Wicklow and Wexford regions.

We estimate that Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 will deliver an overall economic benefit of up to €800m, of which around €400m will be local to the Wicklow and Wexford areas, and support around 2,300 jobs through construction, operation and decommissioning phases.

The delivery of 5GW of offshore wind is critical to the 2030 targets set out by Government, and Arklow Bank Wind Park 2, as one of Ireland's most advanced offshore projects, can contribute substantially here.

We are proud to play our part as we collectively transition to a greener and more environmentally-sustainable future - creating jobs, supporting communities and driving significant economic investment.

#### Learning from you – our stakeholders and communities

Throughout the project's development phase, our team has had the benefit of sincere and meaningful engagement with many members of the community in Wicklow and North Wexford. Your invaluable feedback has supported us in refining our plans appropriately and for this, we are thankful.

Based on this interaction, our team has compiled a factsheet of some of the key questions asked by stakeholders to date, which we hope you will find informative.

As we continue to drive forward delivery, we are committed to continued engagement and collaboration locally in your community, and with all relevant stakeholders. You can keep up to date with what is happening on the project by scanning the QR code, or by contacting Community Engagement Manager Deirdre Keogh at [Deirdre.keogh@sse.com](mailto:Deirdre.keogh@sse.com) to subscribe to our newsletter.

John O'Sullivan, Project Manager

## About Arklow Bank Wind Park 2

Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 will be located on and around the Arklow Bank, approximately 6 to 15 km from the shore. The project will have a maximum export capacity of up to 800MW and will offset around 830 million kilos of harmful carbon emissions annually. Subject to the achievement of a Final Grid Connection agreement, securing a route to market, and planning consent for our offshore infrastructure, Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 project is expected to move into construction in 2026/27 with first power anticipated in 2029.

SSE Renewables is committed to the community in which our project is located, through local economic investment, job creation, and the provision of a multi-million Euro community benefit fund over the operational lifetime of the project with potential to make lasting transformational change to local communities in proximity to our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 site.



#### 1. What makes up the Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 offshore development?

The development originally started out considering 200 turbines, but given advancements in technology this has reduced to between 47 and 56 turbines. Each turbine is made up of a foundation, tower, nacelle, and three blades.

Extensive and detailed assessment of a range of turbines and layouts were examined during the development process, and range from c. 273m to 287m above sea level (level of the lowest astronomical tide). Two Offshore Substation Platforms and foundation substructures act as a common point to which the cabling from the turbines are connected, and two export cables will bring the power generated by the windfarm back to shore.

#### 2. What is the status of the Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 project?

The project has been under development since 2018. It has already achieved two planning consents, for its onshore grid infrastructure including an underground cable route and substation at Avoca River Park, and an operations and maintenance facility at South Dock, Arklow.

A Maritime Area Consent (MAC) was granted to SSE Renewables for Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 in December 2022. This ensures that the project can progress through the consenting process with an application to An Bord Pleanála. The third and final planning application, for the project's offshore infrastructure will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála in the coming weeks.

#### 3. Will the wind farm use fixed or floating turbines?

The wind farm will use fixed-bottom turbines. Fixed-bottom technology can typically only be deployed in water depths of up to 60-70 metres, although we expect this to increase in the coming years as technology evolves. Anything beyond that is considered too deep for current technology. Along the Irish coastline, generally the farther out you go, the deeper the sea. For example, at distances from shore of up to 30 km, much of the Irish seabed is too deep for current bottom-fixed turbines.

#### 4. How will the project progress without an Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (ORESS) contract?

SSE Renewables plans to deliver Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 outside of the State-subsidised ORESS, which is just one type of mechanism through which a developer can secure a market for their energy. The project was unsuccessful in the ORESS auction, however we are pursuing an alternative route to market in line with the requirements within the project's Maritime Area Consent. The project will still connect into the national transmission grid and contribute to our national renewable energy targets.

#### 5. What is the purpose of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for the Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 project?

The purpose of the EIAR is to understand and quantify the impact the development will have on the surrounding environment. The EIAR will be a key part of the project's forthcoming offshore consent application and will be publicly available after submission to An Bord Pleanála. The report assesses impacts and sets out mitigation measures under a range of themes, not limited to:

Coastal processes; Airborne Noise; Air Quality & Climate; Benthic Ecology; Fish, Shellfish and Sea Turtle ecology; Marine Mammals; Offshore Ornithology; Commercial Fisheries; Shipping and Navigation; Civil and Military Aviation; Seascape Landscape and Visual Impact; Marine Archaeology; Population and Human Health.

#### 6. Will the project impact on the Arklow Bank as a habitat for marine life?

Our studies indicate that the windfarm will not significantly negatively impact the sandbank as a habitat for marine life. Acknowledging that there will be some temporary impact during construction, those areas are likely to regenerate. New ecosystems and/or marine habitats are expected to establish on and around the turbines and scour protection; which prevents erosion occurring around the wind turbine foundation.

#### 7. What effects are likely on our local beaches during construction and operation?

Coastal processes have been extensively assessed as part of the offshore EIAR. Our studies indicate there will be no impacts to local beaches from the proposed development. The offshore infrastructure will meet the land at Johnstown North. Cables will be installed using trenchless techniques and will pass underneath the existing shoreline. This means that there will be no open trenches on local beaches during installation, and no visible infrastructure once the wind farm is operational.

Severe storm incidents which have had a detrimental impact on coastlines all around Ireland, and internationally, are largely driven by climate change. Removing our dependence on fossil fuels and increasing renewable energy infrastructure at scale, is critical to reducing the impacts of climate change, and protecting the environment.

#### 8. Will there be a visual impact on the seascape?

The turbines will be positioned on and around the Arklow Bank extending approximately 27km from north to south and will be located c. 6 to 15km from the shore. Layouts and photomontages from key viewpoints such as Wicklow Head, Brittas Bay, Arklow and Courtown, of the proposed development will be published as part of the EIAR and were shared as part of our public consultation in 2023. Lights will be fitted on chosen peripheral turbines for the purposes of navigation and aviation safety.

#### 9. How is noise impact managed during construction?

This is a key focus area in the EIAR. We have completed noise assessments and modelling of foundation installation piling operations. The impact will be temporary in nature - over one installation season - and we will be obliged to comply with standards and maintain noise emissions at certain limits to avoid any nuisance scenario.

#### 10. What if any impacts are likely on commercial fishing?

Post construction fishing activities will be permitted around and within the wind farm. However, we do expect that some safety advisory zones will be required for the construction phase - and this is for navigational safety purposes.

These 'rolling' safety advisory zones will be positioned around complex lifting operations and cable installation activities. There will be a Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy included within the EIAR, which will address how the project will interface with commercial fisheries in advance of, and during project construction and operation.

## Find out more!

Updates are provided through our newsletter, website and in local media as the project develops. Our locally-based Community Engagement Manager (CEM) and Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) can be contacted via email to [deirdre.keogh@sse.com](mailto:deirdre.keogh@sse.com) and [brendan.dillon@sse.com](mailto:brendan.dillon@sse.com) respectively.

For further information on careers and employment visit [www.sse.com/careers](http://www.sse.com/careers)

For supply chain queries visit [www.sse.com/potential-suppliers/](http://www.sse.com/potential-suppliers/)

For project updates visit <https://www.sserenewables.com/arklowbank2/>



# Funding boost to promote physical activity among older people

Communities around Co Wicklow will benefit from the €6,830 in funding for groups and organisations which provide opportunities for older people to get involved in sport and physical activity.

**The following groups and organisations in Wicklow will benefit from funding:**

- \*Ashford ICA
- \*Aughrim Co. Wicklow ARA
- \*Avoca ARA
- \*Avoca ICA
- \*Ballycoog ICA guild
- \*Baltinglass & District ARA
- \*Bray Family Resource and Development Project
- \*Carnew Community Care
- \*Delgany Golf Club
- \*Greystones Bowling Club
- \*Greystones Family Resource Centre
- \*Greystones Nursing Home
- \*ICA Wicklow Town Guild
- \*Kilcoole Mens Shed
- \*Knockananna Community Hall
- \*Lakers Social and Recreation Club CLG
- \*Newcastle Community Centre
- \*Newtownmountkennedy ICA
- \*Roundwood Men's Shed
- \*Signal Arts Centre
- \*Tinahely Active Retirement
- \*Vale of Avoca Men's Shed
- \*Wicklow Active Retirement Association
- \*Wicklow Sports Partnership
- \*Wicklow Tennis Club

Fine Gael's South Wicklow Candidate Laurie Kearon met with Anne O'Connell of Arklow Active Retirement following the announcement of the Active National Grant Scheme which is a combined initiative from Age & Opportunity and Sport Ireland, funded by the Government.

Mrs Kearon said: "This grant aims to create an Ireland where older people can be more active and more connected. Important groups and organisations like Active Retirement Groups, ICAs, Men's/ Women's Sheds, Physical Activity Leaders (PALs), care settings and other sports and social groups all over Ireland will benefit from over €300,000 in support for their sport and physical activities."

their sport and physical activities."

Anne O'Connell from Arklow Active Retirement commented "This funding is a tremendous boost for Arklow and the surrounding areas. It provides us with an essential resource to expand our activities and to reach even more seniors. Our members greatly appreciate the opportunities to stay active and socially engaged, and with this support, we can offer a wider range of activities tailored to their needs."

Laurie continued "every year approximately 32,000 older people around the country take part in physical activity funded by the Active National Grant Scheme. The funding allows older people in our communities access a



Ann O'Connell from Arklow Active Retirement (left) and Laurie Kearon

diverse range of activities such as, aqua aerobics, rowing, dancing, cycling, clay pigeon shooting, bowling, self-defence, walking tennis, tai chi, walking and weight-lifting. It's important that people have choice when it comes to exercise, so they can find the activity that's right for them.

"I have no doubt this will have a positive impact for our area. We cannot underestimate the importance of maintaining physical activity as we get older. Exercise improves overall immune function, contributes to good mental health and helps to maintain overall cognitive function. This financial

support will help our local organisations buy equipment and host activities specifically designed for the older people in our communities in Co Wicklow so they can reap these massive health benefits of being active and enjoy social engagement which comes along with it."

# Success for Wicklow Triathletes in national duathlon and Ironman

Wicklow Triathlon Club's had recent success in the national duathlon series and Ironman Valencia.



At the IronMan: Michael Pearce, James Burke, Brian O'Riordan, Audrey Pender, and Dee Murphy.

The 2024 Duathlon National Series started in January and, over the course of four months, included 12 Run-Bike-Run events across Ireland. Each event comprised a multi-disciplined sprint duathlon race, a 5km run followed by a 20km bike and finishing with a 2.5km run.

The final event of the series was held in Phoenix Park on Sunday, the 21st of April, where Wicklow native Emma O'Brien comfortably won the national title and was crowned national female champion. This is an excellent start to 2024 for Emma; this year is shaping to be another successful year for Wicklow's world-class Triathlete. There was a stacked field

on the final day, with over 300 competitors in attendance, several of whom had raced internationally. Wicklow Triathlon Club members Ben Butler and Ian Wiley won their respective age categories, with Brendan Buck putting in a powerful performance; both Brendan and Ben raced several of the 12 national events over the 4-month series, both having several podium finishes.

A few weeks earlier, the national youth series kicked off in Athy with Lara Buck winning the 14-15 age group with a very fast time.

Eight Wicklow Tri Club members participated in the Ironman Valencia 70.3 triathlon, and this event covered a 1.5km swim, followed by a 90km bike and finished with a half marathon.

The popular Valencia Ironman attracted a strong field that included over 100 professional triathletes and a generous prize pot. Personal performances and age-grade world championships spots motivated Wicklow triathlon club members who all raced impressive times: Scott Graham 4hrs 21min, James Burke 4hrs 38min, Michael Pearce 4hrs 50mins, Brian O'Riordan 4hrs 53mins, Dee Murphy 5hrs, Dan McCarthy 5hrs 25mins, Orla McAndrew 6hrs 4mins, Audrey Pender 6hrs 16min.

Scott came 6th in his age grade, and the actual winner of his age grade finished 15th in the pro field. Both Scott and



The national youth series kicked off in Athy with Lara Buck winning the 14-15 age group with a very fast time.

James raced faster than several of the pros on the day, which is a remarkable achievement, given both are part-time club

athletes. Dee Murphy finished 3rd in her age grade and qualified for the world championships in New Zealand.

There were Excellent performances by Michael, Brian, Dan, Orla, and Audrey, who all made the event look very easy.



Ian Wiley, Emma O'Brien, Alan Brown, Keith Pyper, Brendan Buck, Ben Butler. Pic: Corinna Nolan Photography

## Kieran BURKE

Baltinglass LEA Candidate

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**Kieran Burke**

**Kieran Burke Wicklow**

**kieranburkewicklow@gmail.com**

**089 247 6904**

# Stapleton launches campaign in Tinahely

**Peter Stapleton, 27, local election candidate for Fine Gael in West Wicklow, launched his campaign to a full house in The Courthouse Arts Centre in Tinahely on Friday, 19th April, alongside Sean Kelly MEP and retiring Councillor Vincent Blake.**

Beibhinn Byrne acted as Master of Ceremonies for the event. Tinahealy local Stapleton has strong ties to South and West Wicklow through his great grandfather John 'The Boss' Duffy, founder of Duffy's of Hacketstown. After a period working abroad, Stapleton returned to run his family's landscaping business, Greenscene.

Reflecting on his campaign launch, Stapleton said that "it was a fantastic evening and great to see so many family, friends and members of

our community come out in support of my candidacy. It just shows that the people of South and West Wicklow care deeply about the state of our towns, villages and communities and want to see real progress - it's something I've noticed on the door time and time again.

"My promise to fight for vibrant main streets, support small businesses and agriculture and back common sense solutions to improve our area is resonating with the public. Many thanks to Cllr.

Vincent Blake and Sean Kelly MEP for their kind words - both representatives have long supported stronger and more vibrant rural communities and I'm honoured that they are supporting my campaign," Stapleton continued.

Speaking on the night, Cllr Vincent Blake said "I have been so impressed by Peter's determination and efforts to meet people and really listen to them. As one chapter closes, another opens and I am delighted to support Peter knowing

the positive contribution he can make for all if elected."

Sean Kelly said "Peter will represent rural Ireland. Its farmers. Its business. Its community organisations. Its people," he said.

Peter Stapleton, addressing Cllr Blake, said "There is so much thanks out there for the work you have done, and I think it is important that you and all of your family here tonight know that."

He continued: "I would be so proud to represent an area in which my family have deep roots and an historic legacy, bringing new energy and commit-

ment to the future of South-West Wicklow."

Peter was delighted to be in the presence of the Hennessy family to pay tribute to the work of Martin over the years. "I will be forever grateful to Martin Hennessy, for signing my nomination form and backing me to be a candidate in the local elections. I am not in the business of making promises. But if elected I will work tirelessly for our communities, I will never be afraid to speak loudly to represent our best interest, to get stuck in straight away and always have my constituents back. I'm not making promises. But I promise you that."



Peter Stapleton (right) at his campaign launch with MEP Sean Kelly and Cllr Vincent Blake.



Bryan Kenna

# Labour selects Bray West candidate

**Local Kilmacanogue man Bryan Kenna will be running as the Labour Party candidate for the Bray West area in the upcoming local elections.**

Mr Kenna has had 15 years experience working in the disability sector, caring for children and young adults. "My years of experience in this sector has allowed me to see the needs that are not being met across our community. It also gives me the perspective to see what must be done to meet those needs," he says.

Mr Kenna is campaigning on the issues of housing, public transport and the development of local communities.

Bryan's candidacy was confirmed at a selection convention on Tuesday 30th April. In attendance were Labour

Party Councillors Anne Ferris and Paul O'Brien (pictured with Bryan). Cllr. Ferris said that she was "delighted to welcome Bryan to the ticket in Bray West. He is a wonderful candidate and will make a great councillor!"

Bryan says that his experiences dealing with vulnerable and marginalised groups have reinforced his ties to politics: "Respecting the basic human rights of every person is central to my professional life, and it is a shared value in my political life as a member of the Labour Party."

Bryan believes that the people

struggling to find stable accommodation must be a priority. He explained "Both government and council are failing people by allowing private profiteering to drive the housing market, when we should, as a society, be providing for those who need a roof over their heads. Allowing profits to set the agenda ended in disaster in 2008, and the government is making a lot of the same mistakes again. If elected, I will work my hardest to ensure that the council does all it can to clear the ever-lengthening housing-lists."

The development of our communi-

ties is also very important to Bryan. "I believe that strong communities are built by creating and using shared spaces. This includes parks & recreational areas, but also our town centres. Ensuring that these spaces are safe & inclusive is an absolute minimum," he said.

Mr Kenna concluded by saying "I am running with the sole aim of improving the quality of life for the people of Bray, and the Wicklow community. To begin to do that, we need to regain the sense of community that we have forgotten, and rebuild the communities that we have lost."

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Andrew Gaube and Ella Macek from Greystones Community College with their awards

# GCC students achieve among the highest results in Ireland in Junior Cert

Greystones Community College were celebrating major news recently with the announcement that not one but two of their Junior Cycle students achieved some of the highest results in Ireland in the State Examinations 2023.

Two students at the school received the acclaim based on information collated from all schools throughout the country where a list of the highest achievers is compiled by the State Examinations Commission. GCC student Ella Macek (14) achieved the second highest grade in the whole country in her Junior Cycle Graphics exams. To put this achievement in context, 15,000 students across the country take this subject from over 700 post primary schools. Ella's grade was the second highest in the country, a astonishing achievement.

In addition to Ella's success, another student at Greystones Community College was also recognised for achieving one of the highest grades in the country in the

subject Applied Technology. Andrew Gaube (15) achieved an outstanding result in his Junior Cycle exam which placed him in the top 10 results in Ireland this year. Both Ella and Andrew were presented with certificates of achievement by the Technology Teachers Association. Mr. Stephen O'Brien, Chairperson of the Technology Teachers Association of Ireland said "To be able to recognise these achievements, we liaise with the State Examinations Commission who kindly provide us with a list of the most meritorious students. The techno teachers association then provide certificates to these top high achieving students in the country."

These results are testament to the hard work and support provided by Greystones

Community College Technology and Graphics Teacher Mr. Ciaran Doyle who has worked with and mentored both Ella and Andrew over the past three years. Commenting on these achievements, Greystones Community College Principal Mr. Ruairi Farrell remarked said "It is remarkable for our school to have two students among the very best in the country in our very first year of Junior Cycle examinations. The calibre of these students is without question, and this coupled with the dedication and hard work of our teaching staff providing the winning formula for success. It is with great pride that I congratulate Andrew, Ella and Mr. Doyle on this remarkable accomplishment on behalf of the whole school community."

## Wicklow students reach finals of Young Social Innovators of the Year Awards

Students from Wicklow have been shortlisted for the Young Social Innovators of the Year Awards, due to take place on 9th May in the Aviva Stadium, Dublin. The students will join finalists from 15 other counties who have reached the final of the prestigious awards for their social innovation projects across categories including, 'Planet Protectors', 'Push Back on Poverty' and 'Make our World a Safer Place'.

The YSI awards, now in their twenty-third year, celebrate excellence in youth-led social innovation nationwide and over forty teams successfully pitched to a panel of expert judges to earn a place on the 2024 shortlist.

The students travelling to the Aviva Stadium from Youthreach in Wicklow have been shortlisted in the Sustainability for Our Planet Award category for their project, Innovative Inclusion.

Speaking at the pitching event for the Young Social Innovators of the Year Awards, held on the 25th April, CEO of YSI, Roger Warnock, said: "Due to the high quality of ideas this year,

a larger number of teams (37) were selected for the final pitches. This demonstrates the ongoing passion, creativity and commitment of our young people, their teachers and parents to making their communities and the world a better place to live, working together to co-create engaging solutions to real-world issues they see around them.

"As always, the judging panel and I have been blown away by the research and expertise shown by the Wicklow students at the pitching event and we look forward to announcing the winners on the 9th of May in Dublin."

## Arklow school gets approval for replacement of porta cabins

An Taoiseach Simon Harris recently announced that Arklow's Gaelscoil an Inbhir Mhoir has received approval from the Department of Education for the replacement of two porta cabins in need of repair.

Speaking on this, the Taoiseach said "I am glad to announce that the Department of Education has approved the replacement of two porta cabins currently on site at Gaelscoil an Inbhir Mhoir. The need for further investment in schools across County Wicklow is clear, and I am delighted that the Department now recognises this.

"I am conscious of the need for a full new school build in Arklow, and I have been in touch with many parents and families campaigning for this, to enable their students to continue to access the high standard of education offered in Arklow's Gaelscoils. I will continue to work closely with the Minister and Department for Education, along with the school principals and local school community to ensure that we see real progress as soon as possible," the Taoiseach concluded.



An Taoiseach Simon Harris

## CSR programme launched in Educate Together Secondary School

Green TD Steven Matthews was recently invited to Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School to attend the launch of the CSR programme run by SchoolComputers.ie. The school was awarded E20,000 worth of computers and other technology upgrades and invited Deputy Matthews along with special guest rugby star Jack Conan along to mark the day.

Known as The Education Mega Draw, the programme was initiated in May 2022 with the aim of empowering schools across Ireland by providing them with much-needed support for enhancing their educational technology infrastructure.

Deputy Matthews said, "It was fantastic to launch this programme with the teachers and pupils of Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School. This is a hugely welcome initiative that shows great use of the circular economy with refurbished and remanufactured items. The products are all high specification and sourced from corporate contracts with companies such as Lenovo, Dell, HP & Fujitsu - they then go through an extensive remanufacturing ISO Certified process. As part of a Technology Makeover, Wicklow ETSS is receiving is 22 Remanufactured Lenovo Laptops.

"I have worked with the school on a series of events and am consistently impressed by the staff and students, both their work ethic and enthusiasm for improving their educational offering. Special thanks to Principal John Maddock and Deputy Principal Sarah Hayward for inviting me and for consistently engaging on various interesting projects that the school are working on."



Green TD Steven Matthews, Jack Conan, and 5th year pupils Eve Stokes and Jake Mitchell.

# Spring Open Day at SETU's Carlow Campus



South East Technological University (SETU) will host its annual Spring Open Day at its Kilkenny Road Campus in Carlow, R93 V960, on Saturday, 11th May from 10am to 2pm. The event showcases the University's undergraduate, postgraduate, and part-time courses, and demonstrates the best of student life at SETU.

The Spring Open Day highlights the range of courses developed by SETU's experts in academia and industry. It is an opportunity for future students to experience state-of-the-art educational facilities and learn more about what area of study they would like to explore.

With the CAO Change of Mind facility now open, it is a key time for prospective students to visit SETU's campus in Carlow and speak with lecturers, course leaders, and student support staff

who can guide you on detailed course content, work placements, internships, and career opportunities; as well as answer your questions on areas of student life such as accommodation, admissions, and sport. It is also an opportunity to explore SETU's growing, state-of-the-art campus in Carlow, with guided campus tours taking place throughout the event.

Some interesting courses to look out for include SETU's Bachelor of Arts in Content

Creation and Social Media. This exciting course focuses on content creation and harnessing the power of social media, preparing students for media careers in the worlds of business, campaigning, sales, marketing, and influencing.

The University has a longstanding tradition of excellence in the areas of sports coaching

and rehabilitation. Courses such as the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Sports Management and Coaching with specialities in Gaelic games, rugby, or football, as well as the Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in Sports

Rehabilitation and Athletic Therapy, are excellent options for those who want to combine their love of sport with academic study.

In the highly popular, industry-linked areas of computing and software development, SETU offers its B.Sc. in Interactive Digital Art

and Design and the B.Sc. in Computer Games Programming among other cutting-edge courses with a proven track record of producing best-in-class and industry-ready graduates sought after in the tech field.

Unique to SETU's campus in Carlow is the Bachelor of Engineering (B.Eng.) in Aerospace Engineering that gives students access to an evolving fleet of aircraft at its Centre for Aerospace Engineering.

Additional courses such as the B.Eng. in Biomedical Electronics

gives students the knowledge and skills to progress into the Med-Tech sector, while specialist courses available at SETU's campus in Wexford offer forward-thinking opportunities for those interested in agriculture and agribusiness. The B.Sc. in Sustainable Farm Management and Agribusiness is open for applications alongside the B.Sc. in Organic Agriculture, complementing the University's existing suite of specialty land and food science programmes.

## Kildare & Wicklow schools project makes the invisible visible

Schools under the remit of Kildare & Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB) are participating in a groundbreaking project, the initial results of which were presented at a national Leading Inclusive Education event in Portlaoise recently.

Provision Mapping, an evidence-based process to evaluate student supports, strategically cost and plan provision, allocate resources, and identify staff professional learning needs, is now underway in 140 ETBs schools across the country including Kildare and Wicklow. "Inclusive Special Education is all about making the invisible visible in our schools" said project lead, Education & Training Boards Ireland's Dr Johanna Fitzgerald, "and provision mapping supports all students, including those with special education needs (SEN), by working with all teachers in schools to examine teaching, learning and assessment approaches that make a difference to students' outcomes. Our initial project findings indicate that provision mapping is hav-

ing a positive impact on student learning and staff understanding, awareness in schools and ETBs."

Other findings include:

- Most important benefits include increased school wide awareness and understanding of inclusive and special education.
- 95% of participants surveyed indicate they wish to continue implementing the process.
- Additional qualitative feedback indicated that the strategic leadership nature of Special Education Needs Coordinator (SENCO) role needs to be formally recognised and resourced in schools to develop and embed a schoolwide approach to teaching, learning, assessment and reporting for students with additional needs in schools.

"We believe everyone deserves excellence in educa-

tion." ETBI General Secretary Paddy Lavelle told over 150 ETB school representatives at the event. "Supporting children and young people with special education needs and their families is a priority for our schools and requires wholesale investment and commitment across the education system. That's why we're working hard with all our education partners to ensure that schools are resourced to provide the best possible opportunities for our students."

Led by Dr Fitzgerald in partnership with Mary Immaculate College, the provision mapping project was initially piloted across 6 schools in Limerick and Clare ETB in 2016, followed by a national pilot across 33 schools in 2020, and is now being implemented in 140 ETB Schools across sixteen ETBs.



Dr Johanna Fitzgerald (centre) with Chief Executive of KWETB Deirdre Keyes (right) and KWETB schools personnel. Pic: Eamon Ward



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

IN THE MATTER OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT COMPRISING  
THE BLESSINGTON GREENWAY SCHEME (BORD PLEANÁLA  
APPLICATION REFERENCE NUMBER ABP-312479-22)  
NOTICE OF THE SUBMISSION BY WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL  
TO AN BORD PLEANÁLA OF  
FURTHER INFORMATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 175(5) OF THE  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000 AS AMENDED.

Wicklow County Council hereby gives notice that it has furnished significant further information to An Bord Pleanála in respect of proposed development comprising the Blessington Greenway Scheme (application register reference number ABP-312479-22).

The proposed scheme consists of providing a predominately off-road shared use path for pedestrians and cyclists. The Proposed Development will cover approximately 33 km and involve the provision and upgrading of a greenway mostly through forest and woodlands adjacent to the shoreline of the Blessington Lake/Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA in the townlands following townlands located in the Counties of Wicklow and Kildare, namely Blessington, Haylands, Knockieran Lower, Knockieran Upper, Carrig, Sroughan, Lacken, Ballynastockan, Ballyknockan, Carrigacurra, Annacarney, Vallemount, Monamuck, Humphrystown, Baltyboys Upper, Baltyboys Lower, Burgage Moyle, Russellstown, Russborough, Rathballylong, Tulfarris, Glebe East, and Burgage More and passing adjacent to the villages of Vallemount, Ballyknockan and Lacken before returning to Blessington at Knockiernan Bridge.

The significant further information, including a revised Natura Impact Statement, may be inspected free of charge or purchased on payment of a specified fee (which fee shall not exceed the reasonable cost of making such copy) during public opening hours for a period of six weeks commencing on the Wednesday 8th of May 2024 at the following locations:

- The offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Station Road, Co. Wicklow.
- Baltinglass Municipal District, Civic Offices, Blessington Business Park, Blessington, Co. Wicklow.
- Blessington Library, New Town Centre, Blessington, Co. Wicklow.

The significant further information may be viewed/downloaded during the aforesaid period of 6 weeks at all hours on the following websites [www.wicklowgreenways.ie](http://www.wicklowgreenways.ie) and [www.wicklow.ie/Living/ConsultationHub](http://www.wicklow.ie/Living/ConsultationHub).

Any submissions and observations on the proposed development in relation to –

- the implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development in the area concerned,
- the likely effects on the environment of the proposed development, and
- the likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European Site, if carried out,

may be made writing by hand or post to the offices of An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin, D01 V902, or by email to [laps@pleanala.ie](mailto:laps@pleanala.ie).

Any submission/observation must be received by An Bord Pleanála before the expiration of the period of six weeks commencing on the 8th day of May 2024, i.e. by close of business on the 18th of June, 2024.

A person may question the validity of any decision by An Bord Pleanála in relation to the proposed development by way of an application for judicial review under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986) in accordance with section 50 of the Planning and Development Acts, 2000 as amended.

Practical information on the review mechanism can be accessed under the heading Publications – Judicial Review Notice on the Board's website [www.pleanala.ie](http://www.pleanala.ie) or on the Citizens Information website [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie).

Joe Lane, Director Of Services,  
Transportation, Infrastructure Delivery & Emergency Services,  
Wicklow County Council.

# Purple/Black: David Preston Trio feat. Seb Rochford



London based guitarist and composer, David Preston

Whale Theatre, Friday 24th May, 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets €20 and available at [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie) or call the booking office on 01 2010550.

The Whale Theatre is delighted to welcome the David Preston Trio to Greystones in May 2024. Featuring music from his debut album titled "Purple/Black", David will be joined by Seb Rochford on drums and Kevin Glasgow on bass. This is a must-see for any fan of top class jazz virtuosity.

**David Preston (guitar):** London based guitarist and composer, David Preston has been described by the Guardian as "Virtuosic" and TimeOut as "A superb modern jazz guitarist". He released his debut album 'Purple / Black' on Whirlwind Recordings in April, 2023 featuring ECM recording artists, Kit Downes, Sebastian Rochford and bassist Kevin Glasgow. David has performed /toured/recorded with many US artists such as Grammy-Winning US jazz vocalists Melody Gardot, Curtis Stigers, Jesse Harris, and notable US based musicians Sy Smith, David Binney, Ingrid Jensen, Charnett Moffett, Patrick Cornelius and Tim Armacost. Purple / Black received Editors Choice and a 4 star review in the May issue of Jazzwise Magazine.

**Sebastian Rochford (drums):** Seb Rochford is a celebrated bandleader, drummer and percussionist. He became leader of the experimental jazz band Polar Bear. He has also drummed for Sons of Kemet and Bojan Zulfikarpasic's Tetra-band, and worked with artists like Andy Sheppard, David Byrne, Brian Eno, Joana MacGregor and Herbie Hancock. Rochford won the Bbc Jazz Award for best newcomer in 2004, and was nominated for best musician in 2006. He has been touring with celebrated folk singer Patti Smith since 2016, and since late 2018 he has been playing with his new band Pulled by Magnets. He was nominated for the Mercury Prize in 2005, 2007, 2014 and 2018. Sebastian has released his latest record 'A Short Diary' on ECM records in 2022.

**Kevin Glasgow (bass):** Kevin Glasgow has performed and recorded with many artists including Tommy Smith, Tim Garland, Alex Hutchings, Alicia Olatuja, John Stowell, and the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra (playing alongside artists such as John Scofield, Peter Erskine and Randy Brecker). He currently plays in a number of projects, including Jamie Murray's Beat Replacement, the Asaf Sirkis Trio, Emma Rawicz, the Nicolas Meier World Group, and Preston-Glasgow-Lowe. He currently holds a tenure at the National Academy of Jazz in Siena Italy, teaching alongside musicians Gregory Hutchinson, Renier Baas and Jeff Ballard.

## HORSES at Mermaid Arts Centre

Émile Crowther, Hannah Ní Mhaonaigh, 11th May - 23rd June

Émile Crowther and Hannah Ní Mhaonaigh first collaborated in 2014 after meeting in Bristol, and have influenced each other's practices ever since. HORSES is a culmination of their intertwined visual storytelling and the symbolism of the horse that has continuously presented within both their work.

Horses, figures in mythology, storytelling, spirituality and a symbol of luck, have always been present in Irish culture. In both artist's work the constant need to look back to look forward is essential. Both needing to work directly with their hands, with final outcomes unexpected, this show sits somewhere between control and circumstance. With works including painting, 3D objects and

a Super 8 film that lay undeveloped for ten years, the exhibition offers ideas of imperfections and failure, elements of chance and a refusal to be precious. Reflecting on the parallels and layers of what makes a person, what an individual can strive for, destiny and the energy of the underdog. Crowther and Ní Mhaonaigh find respite and joy in happenstance and revel in these

alignments in what could be seen as either coincidence or fate. Émile Crowther plays with the boundaries of analogue and digital still and moving images, offering 'capsule' moments through abstraction. The reality of the work holds elements of chance and serendipity by using temperamental materials, tools and techniques. He does not intend to mislead the viewer into believing that a reality or a direct truth has been observed, but instead to offer new interpretation. Pushing and pulling both subjects and mediums through processes while working with limitations of space and equipment, or lack thereof, encouraging boundaries to form slowly and to mean something more. Hannah Ní Mhaonaigh creates paintings on linen and on various surfaces including found objects. The titling of her work is an essential part of Ní Mhaonaigh's process, which she considers as an attempt to grab hold of these abstracted elements by the tufts of their tails. The repetitive practice of overpainting and paring back leads to an experimental yet determined fuinneamh (energy) in her finished pieces, the ones that managed to make it. These abstract forms become almost an excavation of fictional artefacts or remains. Natural shapes become abstract symbols unearthed as parts, sections, and unknowingly pieces of the artist herself, harking back to something more primitive, something from the earth, the roots of things.

## The Origin of Evil (Cert: 15)

Mermaid Arts Centre, Monday 13th May, 8pm. Tickets: €10/8. Language: French with English subtitles.

This stylish thriller follows Stephane, a woman in her forties who lives in financial precarity. When her living arrangement takes an even worse turn, she decides to reach out to her estranged, but incredibly wealthy father. As Stephane attempts to fit in with her father's extravagant new family, she soon becomes entangled in the suspicion and deceit that lurks within the beautifully appointed mansion by the sea.



Patrick Bracken as Jetsam, Amy Penston as Ursula and Izabella Wong as Flotsom in Avonmore Musical Society's production of The Little Mermaid in St. Mary's Hall, Arklow.

# Talented Wicklow dancers shine in Irish National Youth Ballet's production of Coppélia

Three young dancers from Co. Wicklow have earned coveted spots among the elite cast of the Irish National Youth Ballet's (INYB) spring production of *Coppélia*, joining over 40 performers at the Samuel Beckett Theatre, Trinity College Dublin. Selected from a pool of 145 dancers who auditioned from across the island of Ireland for the 2024 season, these Wicklow dancers represent the pinnacle of ballet talent in the country.

Representing Co. Wicklow in the cast are Elwood Sweeney from Delgany, training with Duane Watters, Mika Kelly from Rathdrum, training with Wicklow School of Dance and Nina Braswell from Wicklow Town who trains in The College of Dance.

*Coppélia*, with its captivating themes of love, enchantment, and magic, promises to transport audiences to a quaint European village where Swanhilda and Franz embark on a journey to unravel the mystery of *Coppélia*, a lifelike doll, in a tale filled with intrigue and deception.

Artistic Director Lindsay Ashe-Browne expressed her excitement for the upcoming performances, stating, "We are thrilled to bring the timeless tale of *Coppélia* to the heart of Dublin city this spring. This production not only delights ballet enthusiasts but also welcomes newcomers with its engaging storyline and elegant choreography. We hope to see lots of people from the Garden County

at the performances supporting the exceptionally talented Wicklow trio - Elwood, Mika and Nina."

"To dance with the Irish National Youth Ballet, one must possess exceptional dancing talent, akin to elite athletes. The audition process is strict and competitive, with our dancers undergoing rigorous training to reach such a high performance level."

"We are very grateful for the support we receive from Arts Council Strategic Funding, 'Friends of the Company' and Dance World, who help us in our work in developing and promoting the best of dance talent on the island of Ireland and in bringing it to audiences."

Irish National Youth Ballet, established in 1995, is the premier youth ballet company in Ireland. It provides young ballet dancers in Ireland the opportunity to train as a company with internationally trained teachers and choreographers. The company, based in the

DanceHouse, currently has two performance seasons each year, spring and winter.

The company is 45 of the best young ballet dancers in Ireland. They are selected through a competitive audition process each year to work as a semi-professional company delivering work to the highest possible standard. INYB works in conjunction with the private dance teachers and is an advanced supplement to young dancers' training.

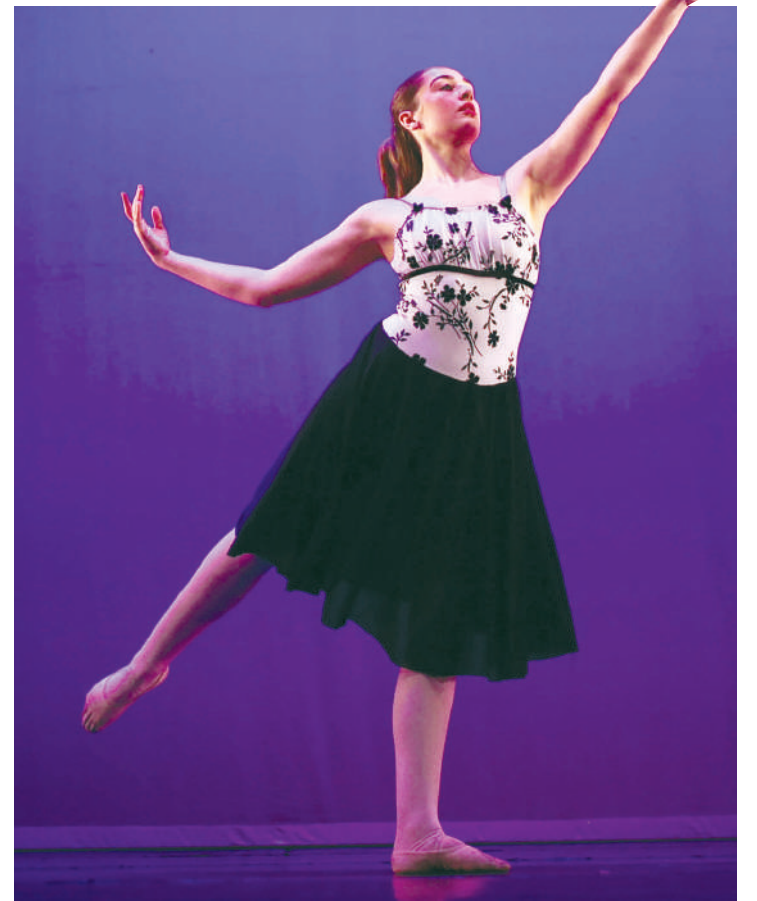
Samuel Beckett Theatre,  
Trinity College Dublin

Friday 17 May, 12pm & 7.30pm

Saturday 18 May, 2pm & 7.30pm

Sunday 19 May, 1pm & 6pm

Tickets: €30 / €15 Friday matinee & Students / 10% off for concessions & groups of 10 or more. Booking: <https://beckett-theatre.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/873656975>



Nina Braswell from Wicklow town prepares for *Coppelia* performances this May

## Karen Underwood - The Music of Nina Simone

Mermaid Arts Centre, Friday 10th May. 8pm. Tickets: €23/20

Singer, writer, storyteller, and public speaker Karen Underwood, who resides in Cork, returns to Mermaid with *The Music of Nina Simone*. The evening will include stories about her life in Chicago and her transition to Ireland in 1997. She will be accompanied by renowned pianist, Gary Beecher. Karen has performed at The Cork Opera House, The Everyman, The Olympia, The Gate, Vicar Street, The Blackbox, The National Concert Hall and Marley Park and countless other venues in Ireland.



Karen Underwood

## Swedish/Irish dance company Flora Fauna Project comes to Laragh

On Friday, 17th May at 7pm, the dance company Flora Fauna Project brings the multidisciplinary dance performance *LUMEN* to Laragh, at the Brockagh Resource Centre Glendalough.

The company is building a creative silk road connecting homelands Sweden and Ireland via land and sea, in search of a more ecological and sustainable way of touring

and working. The productions are designed to suit a wide range of venues, making it possible to reach rural communities and smaller, alternative venues as well as the traditional theatre spaces, giving more audiences access to dance and performing arts.

Through electronic music, dance, video, and scenography, *LUMEN* creates a poetic and playful world that vibrates, shivers, thunders, glitters and glows. For the performance, the company drew inspiration from the animal and plant kingdoms. It's both hopeful and melancholic as the bear, wolf, reindeer, mushroom, and even the sun



itself are danced into existence.

"*LUMEN* is somewhat of a total visual stage-experience. Through music, light, scenography, and choreography, we attempt to create a living world on stage that reminds us of nature and prompts us to see it with different eyes. We aim to awaken a new love and wonder for the richness that surrounds us everywhere. If we don't understand the value of nature beyond the industrial, how can we then care for

and live in long-term harmony with our planet?", says Maria Nilsson Waller, artistic director of Flora Fauna Project.

Flora Fauna Project is an international dance company based in Östersund and Dublin. Founded in 2017, the company is led by Swedish choreographer Maria Nilsson Waller and Irish artist Stace Gill. They work with themes related to our relationship

with nature, the environment, and natural intelligence in works that

combine dance, music, installation, and film. The duo's music is also released separately under the name The Sei and has been featured in several prominent TV productions such as BBC/HULU's *Normal People* + *Conversations with Friends*, SKY's *The Rising*, and AppleTV's *Truth Be Told*.

"The landscapes where we grew up, where we spent our childhoods, had significant influences on our chosen creative paths and continue to draw us back to the natural world and inspire our work. These places, Jämtland and Ireland, are where our first encounters with the natural world took place, where we fell in love with this stunning planet. Here our bodies and imaginations clearly remember the connection with nature, with our bodies and imaginations. We have deep roots here, and it feels natural to share the wisdom we have found in dance and music in the communities we

are naturally connected with", says Stace Gill, artistic director of Flora Fauna Project.

Maria Nilsson Waller is a choreographer, dancer, and designer, born and raised in Östersund. She has been working in dance for over 20 years and has created 14 professional productions as well as several large community projects, including The

River 2020 where 17 women from Dublin's NEIC contemporary danced on Project Arts

Centre stage, in collaboration with DCC and Michael Darragh MacAuley. Stace Gill is an artist who works across disciplines with music, text, dance, and film.

She has been releasing music professionally for over 10 years with several Irish record labels, most recently with Paragon Records, through the band The Sei. Together with Maria Nilsson Waller, she co-founded the dance company Flora Fauna Project.

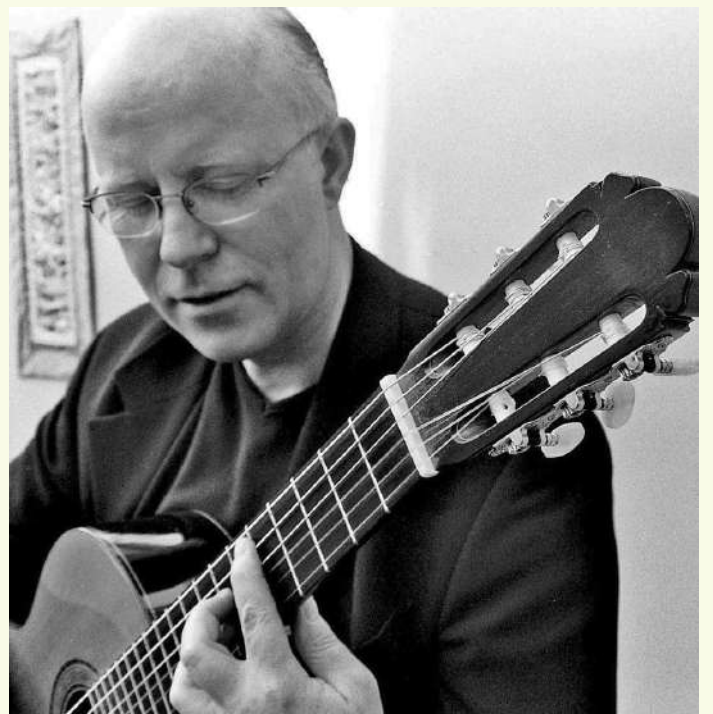
## Classical Guitar Recital with John Feeley

Whale Theatre, Sunday 19th May, 4pm (doors 3pm).  
Tickets €20/€18 and available at [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie)  
or call the booking office on 01 2010550.

Described by the Washington Post as 'Ireland's leading classical guitarist' and by Michael Dervan in the Irish Times as 'a trailblazer...when it comes to the guitar and guitar-playing in Ireland', Feeley studied at Trinity College, Dublin, Queens College of the City University, New York, and The National University of Ireland, Maynooth, where he graduated with a PhD in music. He has taught at the American Institute of Guitar, Memphis State University, the Royal Irish Academy of Music and the Conservatory of Music, Dublin Institute of Technology (now TUDublin).

Highly regarded for his performance and recordings of new works by Irish composers, he has had many works written for him. He is a regular performer at many international guitar festivals and has made recordings with K-Tel, Gael-Linn Records, CBA Classics, Ossian Records, Castle Communications, Blackbox Music, England and Celestial Harmonies, Germany. He has also recorded with the Chieftains, famous Spanish Soprano Montserrat Caballes, flautist William Dowdall and cellist Annette Cleary.

Concerts have taken him around the world and include appearances at the Sydney Opera House, the Old Opera House, Frankfurt, the L'Arena in Verona, and New York's Carnegie Hall.





# Finalists announced for Student Enterprise Awards

The national finalists for Ireland's largest student entrepreneurial programme were announced last week ahead of the finals next month. Over 80 of Ireland's brightest young entrepreneurial minds will compete in the finals of the Student Enterprise Programme from the 26,000 or so who began their businesses in September. A selection of the finalists joined Student Enterprise Programme Ambassador and radio and TV star Louise Cantillon in Dublin for the announcement.

The initiative of the Local Enterprise Offices has seen almost 400,000 secondary school students take part since it began in 2003. The 81 shortlisted businesses will exhibit at the National Finals on the 9th May in Mullingar where winners will be announced across the three categories of senior, intermediate and junior and one business will be named Student Enterprise of the Year for 2024.

Cllr. Aoife Kennedy Flynn, Cathaoirleach, Wicklow County Council said "Wishing all our Wicklow students the best of luck on May 9th at the National Finals, and to enjoy the experience. Be very proud of yourselves, you have taken an idea from your classroom and created a business, learning so many skills on the way,

so well done!" Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, commented: "I wish all the Wicklow Senior and Junior winning teams all the best at the National finals on 9th May in Mullingar, what an incredible experience for all these students, and whatever the outcome, the opportunity of representing the County is one they should be very proud of."

Michael Nevin, Chair of the Local Enterprise Offices' Enterprise Education Committee, said; "Year on year we see an amazing spread of businesses from across the country in our National Finals. The interest in entrepreneurship and the skills that come with it is increasing. Last year we had one of our biggest participation figures for

the programme with over 28,000 taking part. These students are hugely engaged with the challenges of creating a running business and not only that, but they want to create businesses that will make a difference in the world. And whatever the finals, and the future, holds for these students these skills will stand by them."

The Finalists cover all sectors of business from seaweed harvesting and medical identification to farm safety and portable cranes. For the programme, each student enterprise is challenged with creating, setting up and running their own business, and must show viable sales of their service or product.

The Student Enterprise Programme is open to students of all ages at senior level, with three



Finalists in the 2024 Student Enterprise Programme National Final pictured with Brand Ambassador, Louise Cantillon and representatives from Enterprise Ireland, the Local Enterprise Offices and the Local Authorities of Ireland at a recent photo call to promote the event which takes place on 9th May in Mullingar.

separate categories - Junior (1st year), Intermediate (2nd and 3rd year) and Senior (4th, 5th and 6th year, LVA, LCA and Youth Outreach). There are also a number of prizes that recognise achievements across specific categories - including the 'Best Business Website', 'Sustainability Award', the 'Smart Business Idea', the 'My Entrepreneurial Journey', 'Finance Award', 'Technology Award' and 'Intellectual Property' competitions from previous years.

This year also marks the re-launch of the student workbooks 'eas Gaeligeí, further encouraging participation amongst Gaelscoil students while supporting the promotion of the Irish language.

Last year's winner of the Student Enterprise Programme were Josh McCormack and Evan McNeil from Roscommon Community College, the founders and designers of 'MC Com-pactors', a stainless-steel device which enables users to easily compact rubbish in standard wheelie bins. The device works with all standard household wheelie bins, allows users to compress their waste, facilitating greater capacity within the household bin.

The Student Enterprise Programme is funded by the Government of Ireland through Enterprise Ireland and delivered by the 31 Local Enterprise Offices in local authorities throughout the country.

Since the Student Enterprise Programme began in 2003, over 380,000 students have taken part, learning key skills on how to create a business idea, start a business and grow a business.

The Student Enterprise Programme also has new range of online resources for 2023 / 2024 at [www.StudentEnterprise.ie](http://www.StudentEnterprise.ie), which will feature regular blogs and houses a full range of Student Enterprise resources for students and teachers.

The Student Enterprise Programme is one of a number of initiatives that the Local Enterprise Offices run, to foster entrepreneurship across the country. Others include Local Enterprise Week, the National Enterprise Awards, National Women's Enterprise Day and Local Enterprise Showcase.

The Local Enterprise Offices in local authorities are funded by the

Government of Ireland and through Enterprise Ireland.

## RECRUITMENT

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 Phone: 01 282 9668  
 for details.



## PLANNING

**WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**  
 Ian & Louise Stanley seek permission for the redesign and reconfiguration of the existing entrance hall and roof to the existing entrance hall and the addition of a new master bedroom to the existing house together with any associated demolition, drainage and site works at Annacrivey Woods, Kilmolin, Enniskerry, County Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

**WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**  
 I Desmond Shorten, intend to apply for full planning permission, for removal of external potting and utility sheds and for building 1 new replacement single storey steel shed building to side / rear of existing dwelling and all associated site works at Cush Bawn, Ballinaclash, Co Wicklow A67K318. 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

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# ISME to seek views of all Euro-Candidates

The Irish SME Association (ISME), noted that Tuesday 30th April was the closing date for the nomination of candidates to contest the European Elections in Ireland, to take place on Friday 7th June 2024. As part of the electoral process, ISME will be asking all declared candidates standing for election, a range of questions, to understand their views on competitiveness, skills for workers, and access to credit.

Each candidate will be asked to respond with their views by the second week of May, and ISME will publish responses in the third week of May, to allow business owners and workers to understand the views of candidates.

Neil McDonnell, the Chief Executive of ISME said: "The EU Parliament is a very consequential institution and is now the source of a great deal of national legislation affecting workers, businesses and citizens across the EU through EU Directives and Regulations. It is

therefore imperative that citizens understand that the calibre of candidate they elect to the EU Parliament is every bit as important, sometimes more so, than those elected to Dail Eireann."

The candidates will be asked a range of questions on topics such as EU policy impacting SME's entrepreneurship; ESG, environment, labour legislation, skills; and credit. The three Euro-Constituencies in Ireland are Dublin; Midlands-North-West; and South.

## Local business to get Ploughing Championships chance

A small business from Wicklow could be one of over 30 companies who get the chance to exhibit as part of this year's Local Enterprise Village at the Ploughing Championships in September.



The largest outdoor event in Europe will see over 300,000 visitors across the three days from the 17th to 19th September. The Local Enterprise Village, an initiative of the Local Enterprise Offices, will house small businesses from every sector and from across the country and they are opening applications for businesses to get involved.

The selected business will get the opportunity to take exhibit at the event for the full three days and will be fully trained by the Local Enterprise Office team in merchandising, sales and marketing to help maximise their participation at the event.

Year on year the Local Enterprise Village proves to be one of the most pop-

ular destinations and is located right in the heart of the Ploughing Championships. Small businesses are being asked to enquire with Local Enterprise Office Wicklow about eligibility to take part and can contact them through email directly to Martin Cullen on mcullen@leo.wicklowcoco.ie

Cllr. Aoife Kennedy Flynn, Cathaoirleach, Wicklow County Council said: "The Local Enterprise Village at the National Ploughing Championships are a fantastic showcase of superb small businesses supported by their Local Enterprise Offices. It is a great opportunity for a small Wicklow business to exhibit in front of up to 300,000 people."

Head of Enterprise at LEO Wicklow, Vibeke Delahunt said "The National Ploughing Championship is one of the biggest occasions on the Irish calendar and

there are very few events that draw a crowd as large as this over three days. For a small business, this is a huge opportunity to engage with thousands of prospective customers every day and this could have a significant impact on its business. We will be working with them all across the summer on their products, marketing and merchandising for the event, and we look forward to hearing from businesses who want to get involved."

The Local Enterprise Village is just one of a number of initiatives that the Local Enterprise Offices run, to foster entrepreneurship across the country.

Others include Local Enterprise Week, the National Enterprise Awards, the Student Enterprise Programme, National Women's Enterprise Day and Local Enterprise Showcase.



Pictured are Darren Ronan, Brian Thornton, Anna Thornton and Anna Geary of DNG Thornton Properties, who was named Small Branch of the Year 2024 at the DNG National Conference and Awards ceremony which took place at Tulfarris Hotel and Golf Resort in County Kildare on Friday, 19th April. The Conference and Awards ceremony was attended by more than 280 delegates from 82 DNG offices located across Ireland, with Pieta House as this year's Charity Partner. The DNG franchise business is celebrating its 20 year anniversary which complemented the events theme of 'Building on Success'.

## East Wicklow Business Networking & Workshop event highlights potential of AI

The East Wicklow Business Networking & Workshop event held recently proved to be a resounding success, drawing a full house of eager attendees keen to explore the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in both their business and personal lives. The event, titled "AI Unveiled: Transforming Your Business for Tomorrow," took place on Thursday, April 18th at Greystones Golf Club.

Declan Rogers, founder of Tenaciousminds, shed light on the practical applications of AI, demystifying complex concepts and offering strategies for integrating AI technologies into everyday business operations. Attendees gained valuable insights into the benefits of AI, including enhanced efficiency, time management, and cost reduction. Declan emphasised the importance of embracing AI to stay competitive in today's fast-evolving business landscape.

The event was made possible by the generous support of Moneycube, a leading Investment & Pensions provider, who served as the event sponsor. Their contribution played a pivotal role in ensuring the success of the workshop, for which the organizers extend their sincere appreciation.

"We were thrilled to see such a strong turnout and enthusiastic engagement from our local business community," said Mark Atkins, Chairperson of East Wicklow Business Network. "The event not only highlighted the immense potential of AI but also allowed for all the local business to foster valuable connections and networking opportunities among attendees."

Looking ahead, the East Wicklow Business Network will be hosting an evening with your local election candidates where we will discuss the issues important to business in the area. This event will be held in Greystones Sailing Club on the 31st May.

Organisers invite local businesses to consider sponsorship opportunities for future events. Those interested can reach out to the organisers at hello@wicklowbusiness.ie for further details.

**THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER**

Dear Heart of Jesus in the past I have asked for many favours. This time I ask you this very special one. (Mention request) Take it, dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your broken Heart where your Father sees it. Then, in his merciful eyes it will become your favour not mine. St Anthony and St Jude, helper of the hopeless, aid me in my distress. Amen. Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and favour will be granted. Never known to fail. Thank You. E.H.

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