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Page 3



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Page 4



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Page 6

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Tuesday 16th July 2024 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

'FARE DODGERS'

Senior officials from the National Transport Authority (NTA) have revealed to a Dáil committee meeting that plans to reduce train fares in the new Dublin Commuter Zone which were scheduled for September, will now not go ahead until next year.

The delays were attributed to technology and administration issues with elements such as Leap Cards and gate validation points. In January of this year, an NTA fare review announced a major overhaul in fares charged in the commuter counties of Kildare, Meath and Wicklow.

The result was that the standard train fare from Wicklow Town to Dublin was set to reduce

from €10.45 to €6.00 by September of this year at the latest. Responding to the news, local Social Democrats Councillor for the Wicklow Municipal District, Danny Alvey, had this to say: "When I was recently calling to doors in Wicklow Town for the local election, by far the biggest issue raised was public transport and specifically the expensive and inadequate train service from

Wicklow. There are just a meagre three departures every morning of the week from Wicklow station and the fare costs over €10. It was announced this fare would be reduced to €6 back in January but now we've found out that won't take effect until next year at the earliest! This is really unacceptable. In an age when we are supposed to be encouraging as much public transport use as



Ellen O'Gorman, Dolores Keeley, Maura Hall, Emma Cahill, and Maria O'Sullivan, who have all been managers of Roundwood Community Preschool over the years, are pictured at the school's recent 40-year anniversary celebrations. See more, page 8.

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possible and taking people out of polluting cars, this Government has really let us down again when it comes to the radical overhauls and improvements in public transport that we desperately need here in Wicklow."

Independent Councillor, Joe Behan, is also angered by the delay: "The news that the Government, through its transport agency, the NTA, will fail to fulfil its commitment to lower fares in the greater Dublin area is not surprising. The excuses given for not being in a position to reduce the fares in September are thin to say the least and are completely unacceptable and just add to the sense of incompetence which surrounds every aspect of the transport portfolio under the control of the Green Party ex-leader Eamon Ryan.

"When one considers the disgraceful waste of €5 million spent on consultants' fees by Wicklow County Council on abandoned plans to undertake a massive upgrade of the N11 and replacing it with the madness of attempting to close many of the accesses on to the N11 from Bray and Enniskerry, one gets the strong impression that this Gov-ernment is unable to govern competently in any area under its control.

"The latest disappointment - breaking a promise to make fares significantly cheaper for Wicklow passengers- is bound to hit those passengers hard just at a time when they were expecting a little bit of relief in their cost of living. However, those who must drive their own cars, trucks, commercial vehicles are

also suffering already as the tax take from petrol and diesel as

well as home heating oil and gas has been increased and is bound

to rise further as the year goes on.

Continued on page 7

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Skye Garvey at the Pride Festival in Wicklow Town.

Arklow Community Excellence Free Family Fun Day

Arklow Community Excellence launches the first ever community family fun day on Sunday, 21st July from 2-5 pm

Arklow Community Excellence launches the first ever community family fun day on Sunday, 21st July 2024 from 2 - 5 pm. With free admission - the day should not be missed!

With local charity groups, community groups and local organisations taking part you can expect a day filled with activities including a fancy dress picnic, sensory play with 'Little Warriors' and 'Messy Play', arts and crafts, face painting and the chance to try your luck with Dicey's 'Spin the Wheel'. Arklow RNLI, Arklow Community Gardaí and Arklow Fire Services will be on hand to provide public information demonstrations. You can 'try' out your skills with local sports clubs like Arklow Rugby Football Club and Laura's Health & Dance Fitness will keep you entertained.

Tammy Byrne, Chairperson, Arklow Community Excellence, said: 'This is our inaugural community family fun day and we're delighted that so many local groups have agreed to get involved. Building onto last year's ACE Awards and community fair, our committee wanted to help individuals and families link into the community, make contact with community services and all in a relaxed and fun setting. Our committee of 9 formidable women have been working on this event over the past six months. We encourage as many people as possible to come along as the day, bring a picnic or

buy a slice of delicious wood-fired pizza from Paulie's Pizza, or indeed grab a coffee in the Deck Café, Coral Leisure Centre. ACE celebrates community spirit and there is nowhere better than Arklow for its volunteerism and community spirit. We really hope for a good turnout on the day and are grateful to everyone who are giving their time to take part.

For further information about the ACE community event on 21st July, or if you want to exhibit, scan the QR code below or get in touch by phone 00353 894752046 or email aceawardsarklow@gmail.com

Three local groups shortlisted for Good Causes Awards

Three groups from County Wicklow have been selected to receive the National Lottery Good Causes Award. The successful groups are Birdwatch Ireland (Heritage), Glen of Imaal Irish Red Cross Mountain Rescue (Community), and Kiltegan GAA Club (Sport)

An Taoiseach Simon Harris TD has hailed these groups as vital organisations which make our communities safer and stronger. 35 organisations nationwide will now receive a cheque for €1,000 and attend the Good Causes Awards Gala event which will take place in Killashee House Hotel in Naas, Co. Kildare on October 12th where the overall category winners will be announced and where they will each receive €10,000 and the overall Good Cause of the Year, who will receive an additional €25,000.

An Taoiseach Simon Harris said: "I am delighted to confirm that three Wicklow groups have secured a National Lottery Good Causes Award. It is great to hear that out of 35 National Finalists for the National Lottery Good Causes Awards 2024 in 16 counties, 3 are from Wicklow. These groups have been selected for the exceptional contributions they make to their communities and near endless dedication to making a real difference.

"The important work done on a daily basis by each of these groups deserve to be recognised, and I want to congratulate them all on this well-deserved achievement. I am in awe of the tireless and often behind the scenes' done by these types of organisations in Wicklow and across the country.

"I want to thank all participating organisations and the National Lottery who play a key role in supporting Good Causes in the areas of sport, youth, health, welfare, education, arts, heritage and the Irish Language. I look forward to seeing the results in October at the Good Causes Awards Gala."

Parkinson's Ireland coffee morning

Parkinsons Ireland recently set up a new branch in County Wicklow. The branch is hosting a Cuppa and Chat on Friday, 19th July from 11-12.30pm in the Ashford Community and Heritage Centre.

"All welcome to come along to meet one another, have a cuppa and chat about what we can do together as a branch to support the Parkinsons community in County Wicklow."

Summer Lecture

The next talk is Thursday 18th July, 7.30pm. Wicklow Mountains National Park: 2024 and beyond. By Anne Fitzpatrick, District Conservation Officer, WMNP. Free of charge. Allow between 1-1/2 hours for the talk and questions.

Parking is available free of charge at the rescue base. Booking is not required. For more information, phone 0404 45425. Arrive early to get a seat. This event is being organised by education staff based at Wicklow Mountains National Park who are employed by the National Parks & Wildlife Service.

Leinster Car Show in Newcastle

Rev your engines and gather the whole family for an unforgettable day of excitement and nostalgia at the Leinster Classic Car & Motor Show, taking place at Newcastle Aerodrome on Bank Holiday Monday, 5th August. The show will feature: A Classic Car Showcase; Modern and Exotics; Food Vendors; Raffles & Prizes; Meet the Owners; Auto Jumble and Trade Stands.

TICKETS: Adults: €10 / Children (under 12): FREE / Family Pass (2 adults + 3 children): €30.

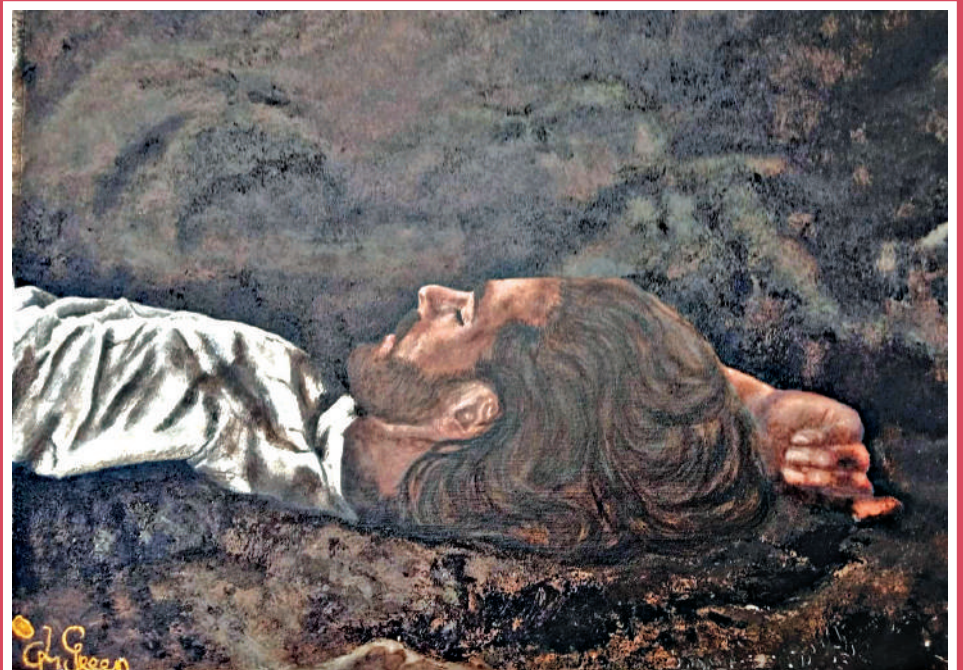
For more information and to purchase tickets www.facebook.com/leinsterclassicarshow or visit eventbrite.

Summer family Nature Days

A series of free fun Family Fun Days are taking place at Wicklow Mountains National Park over the summer. The Nature Fun Days take the form of a fact-finding treasure hunt with activities, aimed at children aged between 5 and 12 years. Family fun day HQ is in the National Park Information Office, by the Upper Lake in Glendalough, A98R221. To participate in the Nature Fun Day, drop in anytime between 11 am and 4pm. No booking required. This is a free event, although there is a parking charge at the County Council Upper Lake Car Park, A98W778. Themes and dates are as follows: Bats 16th July; Oak Tree(s) 23rd July; Dragonflies 30th July; Squirrels 6th August; Freshwater Fish 13th August; Goosander 20th August.

NAC Glendalough Youth Weekend

A fun-filled weekend will take place at NAC Glendalough Youth Weekend at the Glendalough International Hostel. On Friday, 26th July from 4pm to Sunday 28th July 2pm. Free Event. Register on Eventbrite. Get ready for exciting activities, games, and bonding with other young adventurers. This is your chance to make new friends, explore the beautiful surroundings, and create unforgettable memories. Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity to connect with nature and fellow youth enthusiasts.



Young Hozier fan Jill from the Netherlands created this fabulous painting of one of her musical heroes, Hozier, which she wanted to give to him as a present when she attended his concert in Mares Park on Friday 5th July. Jill travelled all the way from the Netherlands with her mum to attend the concert, and gave the painting to a manager or member of the backstage staff, and was told that the painting would be given to Hozier. She is now seeking confirmation that Hozier did in fact receive the painting. Can anyone help answer Jill's question?

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'National Advocacy Service left with no option but to pursue industrial action'

The Local Council of Trade Unions has called on the Minister for Social Protection, Heather Humphreys TD, to urgently intervene in the official national strike by staff of the National Advocacy Service (NAS) which is seriously affecting services in the Bray area, including the Citizens Information Centre at Quinsboro Road.

Mick Ryan, President of the Bray and District Council of Trade Unions, called on the Minister to instruct her department, who are the funders of the service, to accept the recommendation of the Labour Court on the pay and conditions of the staff who are members of SIPTU.

"It is inconceivable that this situation has been allowed to escalate to further official strike action following the failure of management to fully adhere to the recommendation, he stated.

"These workers provide a vital role for adult people with disabilities by assisting them on issues such as

housing, healthcare, personal finances, access to justice, safeguarding and by supporting them in decision making," he added.

"This is yet another situation where workers providing essential voluntary and community services are, once again, having to resort to strike action to

get proper recognition for the important role that they provide for people in our community," said Mr. Ryan.

"The Government continuously stress the importance of workers supporting our State industrial relations voluntary dispute resolution mechanisms and yet here is a classic situation where they are effectively ignoring it, to the detriment of these workers and the vulnerable people that they represent," he concluded.

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has strongly criticised the management of the Citizens Information Board.

"NAS members began industrial action last month but called it off following written commitments by management to fully implement the findings of the Labour Court in respect of pay and conditions for NAS staff," he said.

"Although the NAS comes under the remit of the Citizens Information

Board, ultimately the buck stops with Minister Heather Humphreys who has the authority to compel the CIB to honour the commitment which they previously gave in writing to the membership of the NAS.

"The 48 NAS staff members who have not received a pay rise since 2010, work with more than 1,500 disabled people each year, providing in-person advocacy interventions including housing, access to justice, health care, safe-guarding and support in decision making. It is the only independent professional advocacy service for disabled people and is essential to supporting disabled people in having their human rights.

"Last month on the 12th of June I joined with members of the National Advocacy Service on the picket line in Bray as they began industrial action in support of a campaign for improved pay and conditions for their members.



John Brady TD with striking members of the NAS in Bray, Ian McGahon and Ruth McCullagh, National Advocacy Service .

This was the first time in their 14-year history that members of the NAS took industrial action, despite the fact they did not receive a single pay rise in that time.

"Within hours of standing on the picket line members suspended their strike action after receiving a written agreement from their management in the Citizens Information Board that it would fully implement the Labour Court recommendation concerning pay and conditions for NAS staff.

"Despite this written agreement, management of the CIB felt fit to renege on this commitment, despite numerous meetings with SIPTU and NAS representatives. Now,

members of the NAS feel that they have no option but to recommence their industrial action.

"They are simply asking that their pay and conditions would be put on a par with others who are getting paid more to carry out the same work. The inability to offer NAS workers comparable pay and conditions is making it difficult for the service to recruit and retain staff.

"The role that the NAS plays in the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in the state cannot be overstated. Their efforts have literally taken people in the prime of their lives out of nursing homes, allowing them to lead productive and meaningful lives in their communities.

"They took their case to the Labour Court in January, where they received a favourable recommendation, which was ignored, leaving them with no option but to pursue strike action. I have written to Minister Heather Humphreys urging her to act to compel the CIB to implement the recommendations of the labour court. The impact of the failure of the CIB to honour their own commitment to accept the labour court recommendation is impacting on service users, which include some of the most vulnerable in the state. The government needs to act now, it is within their control to end this strike if they act fairly."



Pictured at the Bray National Advocacy Services office are Ruth McCullagh, National Advocacy Service, Kieran Connolly, Secretary, Bray and District Trades Union Council, Patty O'Malley, National Advocacy Service and Mick Ryan, President, Bray and District Trades Union Council.

Pet Bliss

Pet Carnival Fun Day!!

UNIT 2, BLOCK B, NEWTOWN BUSINESS PARK, MONEYCARROLL,
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Sat 20th July

Event time From 11am - 4pm Fun for all the family

EPA report shows transformative changes needed to achieve faster emissions reductions

Green TD Steven Matthews has welcomed the EPA report that says that greenhouse gas emissions decreased by 6.8% in 2023, compared with 2022.

"This is good news for every single person in Co. Wicklow," said Deputy Matthews. "You don't have to be a Green to benefit from cleaner air and water and lower energy bills. To reduce our emissions by nearly 7% in just one year is an incredible result. It builds on the 2% reduction last year and shows that Ireland is making real progress in terms of hitting our climate targets.

"The amount of greenhouse gases we're producing is at its lowest level in over 30 years which is all the more impressive when you consider how much bigger our economy and our population is compared to back then. The Greens in Government have been driving this change, delivering on new, ground-breaking policies every day that are not just reducing our emis-

sions, but are improving people's lives.

"It's also really good news on lots of other fronts too. It means cleaner air because we're burning fewer fossil fuels, more jobs because we're producing our own energy instead of importing it from abroad, and lower fuel bills and warmer homes because we're insulating our buildings.

"We're also ensuring

that Ireland's economy is ready for the changes that lie ahead as the world switches to greener technologies. We're determined Ireland will be at the forefront of that switch and these results today show we're doing exactly that. We are seeing reductions in almost all sectors. Emissions from energy production fell by a massive 21%. Agriculture decreased by 4.6% and residential emissions reduced by over 7%.

"This emissions reduction is down to the

Irish people who are making a real difference - every day 70 families are putting solar panels on their roofs while twice that amount are retrofitting their homes. Farmers are embracing new ways of working in order to lower their footprint, while more and more people are opting for public transport every year. This is all evidence that Irish people care about the environment."

However Deputy Matthews warns that despite the positive news there is no room for complacency.

"We have much more work to do over coming years to ensure that we make our 2030 targets and beyond. We need to ensure that the people we vote into power have the same commitment to lower emissions and make life better for us all. Above all, we have to keep listening to people. This transition will only work if it is a fair one that is better for families and communities. That's what the Greens are working to achieve."



Steven Matthews TD.

Gum Litter Taskforce roadshow comes to Greystones



Scott Johnson from Wicklow County Council's Climate Action team spreading the message.

The Gum Litter Taskforce (GLT) recently arrived in Greystones in the first week of July as a part of its Summer Roadshow. The interactive roadshow works with local authorities and communities across the country to carry out a fun and engaging education and awareness initiative that demonstrate the proper means of gum disposal and raise awareness of the environmental and fiscal impacts of gum litter.

The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, in partnership with Food Drink Ireland, the chewing gum industry, and local authorities have been delivering this campaign that has resulted in a reduction of gum litter.

Attitudes towards gum litter continue to change, as children are educated on the impacts of gum litter.

In the new school year, the Gum Litter Taskforce's Bin It! education programme will travel across the country and deliver performances to primary and secondary schools nationwide, with the ambition to visit 180 schools by 2025.

The GLT research also found that the biggest deterrent of gum litter is peer pressure, however 1 in 4 state they have changed their behaviour as a result of the educational messaging from the Bin-it campaign. This is supplemented by the eBin It! school roadshow and a social media campaign to target 16-24 year-olds. A further positive impact of the campaign is evident from the 16% of young people who reported having stopped the habit of dropping or spitting gum recently post campaign.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr. Paul O'Brien voiced his support of the campaign, "We are delighted to support the 2024 Gum Litter Taskforce campaign here in Greystones. The results of the campaign are evident, and we are thrilled that 1 in 4 people state the GLT campaign as the reason for deterring them from littering gum."

Welcoming the Roadshow to Burnaby Park in Greystones, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Emer



Pictured at the Gum Litter Roadshow in Burnaby Park Marie, Marguerite Twomey, Rebecca Gill, Ed Melvin and Marie McCooley of Greystones Tidy Towns, with Cllr. Stephen Stokes, and the Gum Litter Roadshow team.



Pictured at the Gum Litter Roadshow in Burnaby Park members of Greystones Tidy Towns, Cllr. Stephen Stokes, and the Gum Litter Roadshow team.



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DBC Chartered Physiotherapy & Sports Medicine 1st Anniversary

DBC Chartered Physiotherapy & Sports Medicine are excited to mark a successful first year, since the opening of their physiotherapy, orthopaedic and sports rehabilitation facility in Bray, Wicklow. DBC Chartered Physiotherapy Clinics are at the forefront of medical science using modern methodology to assess and address physical injuries and providing expert and beneficial care to clients in a professional environment. Our team of skilled chartered physiotherapists include Lead Clinician Stephen Brownlow, Catherine Fitzgerald and Nikita Polakovs who possess over 17 years of clinical experience.

The cutting-edge rehab facility, complete with specialised physiotherapy devices, is designed to treat all musculoskeletal conditions. The custom built, 2,500 square foot state-of-the art physiotherapy centre located in the Egan Business Centre mirrors the clinics in UCD, Athlone, Mullingar and Ashleaf Shopping Centre. The clinic serves elite athletes from multiple disciplines such as professional football, athletics and hockey. Alongside elite sport, the clinic serves to facilitate general physiotherapy and day to day complaints. Aside from the standard physiotherapy services, DBC Bray also offers Senior Strength classes led by a Chartered Physiotherapist and TPI golf fitness screening. The classes led by Catherine Fitzgerald take place weekly in our onsite exercise studio in Bray. All exercises are tailored to participants' individual needs as identified in their initial assessment.

With the business goal to expand the reach and access to specialist services in multi-purpose state of the art clinics, the opening of

the Bray practice at the Egan Business Centre has allowed the team at DBC Chartered Physiotherapy Clinic to provide enhanced care to clients from its new Wicklow base. Renowned as a centre of excellence, particularly in the provision of specialist back and neck rehabilitation, the Bray practice further enhances the clinic's reputation as a specialist treatment provider with proven success, as consultants and GP's continue to refer patients to the rehabilitation facility.

The first DBC Chartered Physiotherapy Clinic was founded in 2001 by Athlone native, Liam Heavin, whose vast expertise and wealth of experience within the Chartered Physiotherapy spectrum, has benefited our ever growing client base. DBC Clinic commenced business from its Ashleaf base in Dublin 12, before opening specialist practices in UCD, Athlone and Mullingar.

Our Services Include:

- Specialist spinal assessment and rehabilitation
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- Specialised physio-led senior strength classes
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- Orthotic prescriptions
- Extracorporeal shockwave therapy (ESWT)
- Dry needling
- Manual therapy
- Fast track access to orthopaedic specialists
- TPI Golf Assessment and Training

Located in the Egan Business Centre, Upper Dargle Road at the Bray/Fassaroe Exit off the M11, DBC Clinic Bray is ideally situated for clients travelling with free onsite parking.

DBC Bray opening hours are Monday-Friday
For more information please call 01 531 0333,
visit www.dbc.ie or email bray@dbc.ie



An Taoiseach Simon Harris at DBC Bray.



Pictured are Lead Clinician, Stephen Brownlow with Athlete Chloe Watkins.



An Taoiseach Simon Harris pictured with Catherine Fitzgerald, Stephen Brownlow and Liam Heavin.



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€243,000 allocated for coastal erosion studies



Brittas Bay.

Wicklow County Council has been approved funding of €243,000 by the Office of Public Works in order to conduct two Coastal Erosion Risk Management Studies under the Minor Flood Mitigation Works and Coastal Protection Scheme, covering from the start of Brittas Bay to the County Wexford boundary.

The first study includes Brittas Bay and Ennereilly Beach where Malachy Walsh and Co. LTD have been appointed to complete the study. This will include a 12km stretch of an area designated as a Special Area of conservation and a Proposed Natural Heritage Area.

The second study includes Arklow North Beach, Porters Rock Beach, Arklow South Beach and Clogga Strand Beach, where RPS Ireland Ltd have been appointed. The total length of this study area is over 10km and includes Proposed Natural Heritage Areas and rock revetments.

The aim of these studies are to undertake a detailed coastal erosion risk management investigation to develop an appropriate plan to best manage the risks identified to human health and life (social), the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity and to further assess and investigate the feasibility of the management plan. The study will provide information on erosion patterns and will include a condition survey of all coastal protection structures.

Detailed current and future scenario coastal change maps will be ascertained for various timescales including 2030, 2050 and 2100 where a detailed Risk Assessment will be conducted. A feasibility of the preferred option(s) and measure(s) shall be investigated and their selection shall be based on a Multi-Criteria Analysis and Economic Assessment. This information will be used for coastal erosion protection measures where necessary.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr. Paul O'Brien, welcomed the funding and announcement of the study, saying, "Our Climate Action Plan has stated that we can expect an increased frequency and intensity of coastal erosion and having these studies conducted at this time allows Wicklow County Council to consider the most appropriate actions to be taken to protect our coast."

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Emer O'Gorman commented that: "It is great that the Office of Public Works have provided this funding to Wicklow County Council in order to conduct a Coastal Erosion Risk Management Study in line with the Actions of our Climate Action Plan. Having these studies conducted will help the council achieve a targeted approach to making our coastline more resilient to climate change."

Massive water infrastructure project to benefit Wicklow

Wicklow is to benefit from one of largest infrastructure projects in the history of the State which will ensure sustainable water supplies and support balanced regional development, according to Irish Water.

The delivery of the Water Supply Project, Eastern and Midlands Region will play a critical role in supporting sustainable development, enabling housing delivery and attracting investment to Wicklow for the next 30 years and beyond, Irish Water say.

The project, which has received Cabinet approval in principle under the Infrastructure Guidelines, can now proceed to planning.

"It will be one of the largest and most important infrastructure projects in the history of the State and has the capacity to ensure secure sustainable water supplies for up to 2.5 million people across the country. It will create a water spine across the country which will ensure an urban level of service to towns and regions from Tipperary to Dublin and Carlow to Drogheda," said Irish Water.

In Wicklow, the project will allow water resources that are currently being channelled to the Greater Dublin area to be redirected to provide a secure, sustainable water supply capable of supporting regional development opportunities. This will provide the capacity to support population growth in a number of areas including Avoca, Ballintreskin, Rathdrum, Laragh-Annamoe, Barnardarrig, Ballinapark, Dunlavin and Hollywood.

It will also provide the capacity

and flexibility to support greater commercial water demand for existing businesses and potential future investment in these areas. This will be in addition to other significant investments by Uisce Éireann in the county. Since 2014, the utility has invested almost €300 million in water and wastewater infrastructure projects in the county, with significant continued investment in infrastructure and programmes planned.

Commenting after the Government decision, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD said: "I am very glad to have received Government approval today for the Water Supply project to proceed at Approval Gate 1 under the Infrastructure Guidelines. What this means is that Uisce Éireann can now progress the project through the remaining Infrastructure Guidelines approval gates including the submission of a planning application to An Bord Pleanála in 2025. This marks an important first step in what is a multi-billion euro project which will ensure a sustainable water supply for our country both now and into the future.

"Not only that, but this project will enable much needed housing delivery. One of the key recommendations in the recently published Housing Commission report was to 'take urgent action to ensure delivery of the critical Water Supply Project for the Eastern and Midlands Region' and with today's Cabinet approval we are doing just that and showing our commitment to this project and to the future generations."

Uisce Éireann CEO Niall Gleeson said, "The Water Supply Project is critical for the future of our country. By delivering a secure, climate-proof supply of water for up to 50% of the State's population it will facilitate increased demand for housing, enable sustainable economic growth and support competitiveness across the Region. Crucially it will also help us meet the challenges of climate change by diversifying our water supplies to ensure safe, resilient water services for communities across the region, and reduce the vulnerability to drought and other extreme weather events."

The Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region proposes to abstract a maximum of 2% of the average flow of the River Shannon at Parteen Basin downstream of Lough Derg. Treated water will then be piped 170km through counties Tipperary, Offaly and Kildare to a termination point reservoir at Peamount in County Dublin, connecting into the Greater Dublin network.

Currently water supply in the Eastern and Midlands region faces a number of serious challenges, notably the over-reliance on the River Liffey to supply 1.7 million people in the Greater Dublin Area. With forecasts showing that the region will need 34% more water by 2044 than is available today, this combination of a growing water supply deficit and lack of supply resilience is not sustainable. Uisce Éireann has an ambitious National Leakage Reduction Programme to reduce leakage in Dublin, Kildare, Wicklow and Meath to 20% by 2030. However, fixing the leaks is not enough, the current situation of a growing water supply deficit and lack of supply resilience is not sustainable.

The proposal approved in principle by Cabinet is the culmination of extensive and detailed appraisal of potential solutions and alternatives in addition to extensive stakeholder and landowner engagement. To date, the project team has engaged with over 1,500 stakeholders and Uisce Éireann is committed to continuing engagement with all stakeholders including landowners and communities along the route. There will be a further round of non-statutory consultation before the project is submitted to An Bord Pleanála for planning approval next year with construction estimated to take 4-5 years.



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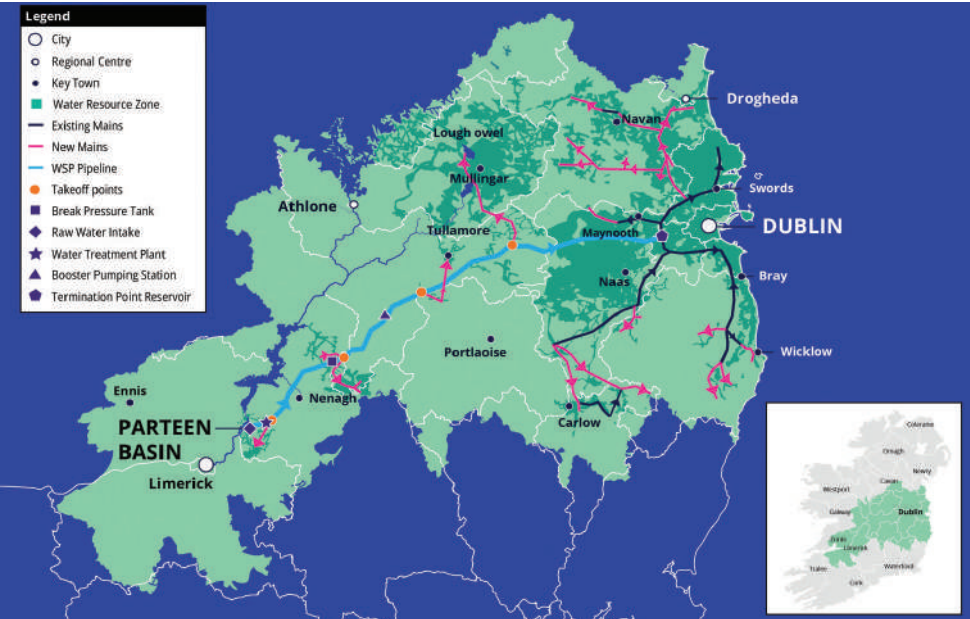
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Cocaine use on the rise among Wicklow youths

Merchants Quay Ireland (MQI), the national addiction and homeless services charity, has seen an increase in cocaine use in young adults in the Wicklow area. The charity operates its CRIS (Community-based Recovery and Integration Support) service in Greystones, Arklow and Wicklow town, and operates on an outreach basis.



Service Manager at CRIS, Shane von Metzradt says: "Year on year, we are seeing an increase in cocaine use, especially amongst younger clients. In fact, it is now second only to alcohol as the most common substance addiction our clients and their families seek help for. We are also seeing increasing demand for our services, so we want to ensure people know we are here to help them."

"Our service provides community-based drug and alcohol supports to people suffering from addiction issues, and their families. We support clients through one-to-one interventions, family support groups and stabili-

sation programmes.

"A parent whose daughter is now in recovery explains: "People just don't understand how traumatic it is for the family. We stopped looking forward to anything because it was always compromised by my daughter's addiction. We were on our knees, in desperation looking for help for us and my daughter. I found the CRIS service tremendous in terms of being responsive and offering guidance."

"The fact the service is in the community is so important, it makes it more accessible and less frightening. If we hadn't had support from CRIS I don't know where we would be, we mightn't have our daughter alive today. CRIS has been just like a light in the dark."

If you or a loved one are struggling with addiction issues, you can contact the CRIS service on 0404 34009 or email crisinfo@mqi.ie.

Calls for review of Garda operational model as numbers drop significantly

Garda numbers for Co. Wicklow have dropped significantly in the past decade and have failed to show any indication of being addressed by Garda management or Government investment, according to Sinn Féin TD John Brady.

According to figures supplied to Deputy Brady there are now approximately 8% less Gardai in the county in 2024 than there were in 2020. Correspondingly in the period from 2011 to 2022, census figures indicate a population increase of over 13.5%, with numbers rising from 136,640 to 155,258. The worst affected area in the county is in the Bray Garda District where there has been a 14% decrease in Garda numbers.

"Responsibility for the decrease in Garda num-

bers in Wicklow lies in the first place with Garda management, but in real terms the ultimate blame lies with the government who have not taken measures to address the shortfall in Garda numbers," said Deputy Brady. "Particularly when Garda recruitment is barely keeping pace with retirements and resignations. In 2019 Garda management took the decision to introduce changes to the Garda operational models nationally, a move which had a particular impact in the Wicklow-Wexford

area. When the two counties were brought together to form a new Garda division encompassing both counties.

"Prior to this the Garda Headquarters for Wicklow was Bray. The new Divisional HQ has been located in County Wexford. I have no doubt, and this is backed up by the available data, that Wicklow is losing out under this new arrangement. Wicklow is not receiving the national attention that it needs to address its growing population, and its proximity

to Dublin, with its heavy population concentration. A lot of this is down to the new operational model.

"While this may have been a decision taken by Garda management, it was ultimately a decision endorsed by the government. A government that has failed to back Gardai in the work that they do by providing them with the resources needed to tackle rising and ever more complex range of crimes.

"I am calling on the Minister for Justice to

back a Garda management review of the operational model for Wicklow Wexford which was introduced in 2019. Wicklow needs a specific focus and attention with Gardai given the full resources they need to police a county which continues to witness significant ongoing population growth.



Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District Cllr Tom Fortune recently visited the Dial and discussed local government and Cllr issues with some Independent Senators. Cllr Fortune says it was a very positive visit and thanks the Senators for their time.

IWA urges caution as bogus collectors operate in Arklow

The Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA) is urging the public to be vigilant after receiving reports of bogus collectors operating in various areas. These individuals, who have been spotted with clipboards and selling lines, are not affiliated with IWA and are not legitimate collectors.

IWA wants to remind the public that legitimate collectors will always have a letter of authorisation from IWA, a Garda permit, or a letter of permission from the supermarket where they are stationed. Additionally, all IWA collectors will be wearing a branded high-vis jacket and will have an IWA-branded bucket for donations.

If in doubt, individuals are encouraged to ask for proof of identification from collectors. Any concerns or suspicions should be reported to the local Garda station for further investigation.

For more information or to report any suspicious activity, please contact your local Garda station.

Irish Wheelchair Association has been made aware of bogus collectors in the following areas already: Naas, Kilkenny, Athlone, Navan, Arklow, Bunclogh, Gorey, Waterford, Mullingar, Tuam, Carrick on Shannon, Roscrea, Portlaoise, Roscommon, Drogheda, Athy, Ennis and Carrickmacross.

IWA stated "We continue to report these to Garda Sióchana and urge the public to be vigilant."

'FARE DODGERS'

Continued from page 1

"The failures of this Government in housing, health, education, transport and immigration are combining to convince many people that it is time for a change and hopefully, we won't have to wait too much longer for that change to come."

Minister Stephen Donnelly also commenting on the delay in reducing fares said "There's no doubt

that hard pressed public transport commuters are disappointed that this promised reduction in fares is now delayed. I don't understand the 'technology and administration' reasons given as an explanation for the delay, considering that pricing on the rail network is regularly amended by technology. I have written to the Minister for Transport seeking to have this fare reduction implemented as soon as possible."



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

SOCIAL HOUSING ASSESSMENT 2024 IMPORTANT NOTICE IF YOU ARE AN APPLICANT ON WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL'S LIST FOR SOCIAL HOUSING SUPPORT

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

The Social Housing Assessment 2024 is a review of all applicants approved for social housing support with Wicklow County Council prior to 5th July 2023.

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

Each approved Applicant is required to complete a form and return it with supporting documents (where necessary) before 31st July 2024. If you have any difficulty with completing this form, you can contact the Housing Section for assistance by emailing hna@wicklowcoco.ie Tel: 0404 20100

If you are in receipt of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) you are not required to complete this Social Assessment Housing Form.

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

All approved Social Housing Applicants should return their forms by 31st July 2024 to:

Caroline Fox,
A/Senior Executive Officer,
Social Development (Housing & Community),
Wicklow County Council, County Buildings,
Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow.



Roundwood preschool celebrates 40 years

On Friday, 21st June, at Roundwood Community Preschool, a community event took place to celebrate 40 years of service to the Community. Staff were joined by the Board of Management, families, community members, past managers and Senator Pat Casey.



Past manager, Maria O Sullivan stated: "It was a pleasure to be back in Roundwood Community Preschool and to see how well the work is going." "Roundwood Community Preschool is a truly unique and special setting" stated Emma Cahill, current manger "The impact of whole community support has an enormous positive impact on the children's wellbeing and development and the quality of care provided. I am honored to be part of such a dedicated team of educators and a voluntary board of management. Our day of celebration was a huge success, and a beautiful way to sign-off on the ECCE year before the summer break."

Roundwood Community Preschool celebrated 40 years of providing play based early years educa-

tion in the community on Friday 21st June. The preschool is a not-for-profit setting. The longevity of the setting is a testament to the dedication and hard work of parents, staff and local politicians to the children of Roundwood.

Founded in 1984, the preschool operated four mornings a week from the Old School, charging minimal fees. The service relied on regular fundraisers to stay afloat. In 2009, thanks to the efforts of parents, staff, local TDs and councillors, the preschool secured a dedicated home by Wicklow County Council in Ashwood Estate. The two bedroomed house was adapted to suit the preschool's needs by community volunteers. A National Lottery grant funded the creation of a children's adventure garden. The same year, the introduction of the Early Childhood Care and Education grant, ECCE, enabled the preschool to become self-sustaining.

While the pre-school provides early, child centred education for 3 to 5 year old children, it also provides its staff and trainees with access to further education, to maintain high standards of care, and continuity of staff. Now, in 2024, the preschool offers 2 sessions per day, running 5 days a week.

Senator Pat Casey stated: "Congratulations to Roundwood Community Preschool on their remarkable milestone of providing a special place where young friendships



are made, learning in a group setting, starting in preparation for beginning school in a fun and caring environment to the Roundwood community for four decades. It was a pleasure to partake in the festivities and interact with the children, parents, staff, and management.

"It was wonderful to be

able to connect with past managers who have contributed to the success. Emma and all the staff have maintained a wonderful and creative space for young people to learn and grow. It was an honour to be able to attend the anniversary of a thriving local service to celebrate with them.

"Many years ago I was able to assist in helping the preschool to secure the current site in Ashwood. I want to assure Roundwood Community Preschool of my unwavering support and express my gratitude for the exceptional service they provide to the community. Here's to

another prosperous 40 years!" "With continued cooperation between parents, community, and early childhood educators, the service should continue to grow and thrive in the coming years. Here's to the 100 year anniversary!!" said Ellen O'Gorman.



Some of the children enjoying refreshments on the day: Harry Smyth, Parker Healy and Ruadh Kelly.



Current staff: Christine Fitzpatrick, Emma Cahill, Ann Scott, Aoife Cullen, Ann O'Toole.



'A Lived Experience'

Tinahely Agricultural Show invites you to celebrate the richness and diversity of Co Wicklow at the 2024 Show

The official launch of the 2024 Tinahely Agricultural Show took place in Tinahely Village on Thursday August 4th, where details were announced for this annual celebration of rural life. The Tinahely Show is recognized as being one of the 'Big 3' agricultural shows in the country and attracts over 20,000 people each year from all over the country, due to the range of exhibits, displays, musical entertainment, competitions and events to suit all the family.

Highlights for the 2024 show announced today include:

• The 'Best of Wicklow' exhibition returns and will showcase even

more of what makes County Wicklow exceptional. Wicklow's greatest ambassador and celebrity chef, Catherine Fulvio, will be on the

Wicklow Naturally stage, sharing some of her amazing recipes using Wicklow-sourced ingredients. Wicklow's greatest ambassador and

celebrity chef, Catherine Fulvio will be on Wicklow Naturally stage to share some of her amazing recipes using Wicklow sourced ingredients. Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, expressed delight at the council's support for this showcase of Wicklow's best to both rural and urban audiences.

• COUNTRY MUSIC STAR - Olivia Douglas and her band will headline a fantastic musical lineup. Known for her signature song 'Leaving Tipperary,' Olivia, from Ferbane in Offaly, has much to smile about over the last few years. The entertainment lineup also includes Jack Keogh, Theresa and The Stars and Alistair Fingelton.

• The show will also feature all the usual attractions that provide the unique blend of agricultural competitions, entertainment, crafts, novelty events and amusements for all the



Pat Walsh, Lorraine Aspill, Santina Kennedy, Margaret Healy, Michael Nicholson, Barbara Behan, Cllr Peter Stapleton and Cllr Pat Kennedy at the launch of the 2024 Tinahely Agricultural Show.



Cllr Peter Stapleton, Chairperson of the Tinahely Show Margaret Healy, Michael Nicholson (Deputy Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council), and Santina Kennedy of Wicklow Naturally, pictured at the launch of the 2024 Tinahely Show which takes place on Monday 5th August.

family including:

- Local, national, and championship livestock competitions
- Massive trade stand display with over 400 businesses showcasing their services and products
- FBD Belgian Blue Finals
- Zurich Commercial Cattle Finals
- Tirlan Dairy Finals

- Redmills Horse Championships
- Arts and crafts competitions and showcase
- IFA Food Marquee
- Pony games and show jumping
- Pet's corner
- Dog show
- Vintage Display
- Sheep Dog Trials
- The World of Wool
- Quilt Marquee
- Dog Agility

- Junior arts and crafts
- Carnival fair
- Novelty events and competitions

"The show committee would like to thank all of our trade stands, local businesses, sponsors, and our wonderful community of volunteers, who have shown such unwavering support through the years. We are looking forward to

welcoming them back in 2024," said Chairperson Margaret Healy.

"The Tinahely Show is a fun day out for the whole family, with attractions and entertainment galore throughout the day for young and old."

Entries are now open for all categories and can be made online at www.tinahelyshow.ie.

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KWETB calls on Government to tackle inequalities in education sector



Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board (ETB) is calling on the Government to commit to tackling inequalities in the education sector by supporting the priorities laid out in the 'Support Your Local ETB' campaign. Representatives from Kildare and Wicklow ETB met with members of the Oireachtas at a briefing event in Buswells Hotel, Dublin, recently where they expressed their concerns.

Wicklow politicians in attendance included Senator Pat Casey. The event marked the official launch of the Support Your Local ETB campaign and was organised by Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI), the representative body of 16 Education and Training Boards (ETBs) nationwide. The four priorities outlined in the Support Your Local ETB campaign that ETBI and its members are calling for government support on include:

1. Increase the number and profile of Community National Schools nationwide;
2. Increase in the Deputy Principal allocation in ETB post-primary schools with DEIS designation;
3. Increase in funding for Further Education and Training (FET) so that funds reflect the proportion of learners, and ring-fence €600m in funding for the FET Colleges of the Future project, due to commence in 2028;
4. Restore funding for youth work to pre-austerity levels and ensure pay parity for youth workers.

Progress for St. Mary's National School's new classrooms

An Taoiseach Simon Harris has confirmed further good news for schools in County Wicklow as progress has been made on securing additional accommodation and upgrade works for St. Mary's National School Barndarrig.

Pending final assessment and agreement with the school, the Department of Education will provide for the construction of one new mainstream classroom, the provision of a new special educational needs classroom, and the upgrade and refurbishment of the school's current SEN classroom. The Taoiseach said, "I am delighted to confirm further progress on St. Mary's National School's application for additional school accommodation. Having engaged with both the Department of Education and the school over the past number of months, it is great to be able to announce even more good news for schools in County Wicklow. "The extra classrooms, along with the upgrade and refurbishment works to the school's existing SEN classroom, will no doubt have a huge impact on the success of the school's students, both current and future, by enabling the staff at St. Mary's to continue to provide a high-quality education for all their students. "After visiting the school some months ago, I understood how important it was that this project gets over the line, and now that we are one step closer I will continue to work tirelessly until we see ground broken on site. "Along with this, I will continue to work for the many other schools in County Wicklow, who deserve our support and see how else we can improve life for our students and young people," The Taoiseach concluded.

Photographed at the launch of ETBI's #SupportYourLocalETB campaign at Buswells Hotel, Dublin were Ruth Griffin, Youth Officer, Cork ETB; Sandra O Toole, Deputy Principal, Buncloody Community College; Megan Whyte, Primary Teacher, Citywest and Saggart Community National School and Louise Hassan, former FET Learner, Dublin and Dun Laoghaire ETB. Pic: Marc O'Sullivan.

Progress for Kilcoole Primary School as new build progressing

An Taoiseach Simon Harris has confirmed Kilcoole Primary School's new build is progressing as letter of intent has been issued from the Department of Education to the successful contractor. The Taoiseach has welcomed this progress bringing the new build one step closer to construction.

Kilcoole's primary school is set to benefit from a new build of 12 mainstream classrooms and 5 additional classrooms for children with special educational needs. On top of this, there will be a GP hall in St Brigid's with a floor area of 2,180m². An Taoiseach Simon Harris said: "This is great news for Kilcoole Primary School, the students and the families in the area. Many families and the staff of Kilcoole Primary School have been waiting for too long for this news. I am thrilled to see progress being made, bringing us one step closer to the construction of these new classrooms. "Since becoming Taoiseach I have been laser focussed in trying to push new school buildings to construction in Wicklow and across the country. As a TD in Wicklow I know too well how difficult it has been for parents dealing with school place shortages. "We must put every lever at government's disposal to ensure we match demand with capacity. I want to pay tribute to the many staff, parents and families involved in progressing this school building to construction. "We have worked so hard for this new build and now there is light at the end of the tunnel. Children in Kilcoole deserve the best school facilities and with this new build they will get state of the art classrooms.



Catriona Cullen, Ahmed Barkad, Mahdi Hasan Noori, Haaruun Ali Omar, and Christine Wray at the recent Wicklow Further and Education Centre's graduation ceremony in Colaiste Chill Mhantain.

New classrooms announced for school in Baltinglass

In further good news for schools in Wicklow, An Taoiseach Simon Harris has announced new classrooms for Scoil Naomh Iosaf in Baltinglass. The school is set to gain 2 mainstream classrooms through modular builds, 1 Special Education classroom and 5 Special Education Tuition rooms.

Taoiseach Simon Harris said: "Today, in further positive news for schools in Wicklow, I am delighted to announce that Scoil Naomh Iosaf in Baltinglass is in line for 2 mainstream classrooms through modular builds, 1 Special Education classroom and 5 Special Education Tuition rooms. I am so pleased to see this development for Scoil Naomh Iosaf. "The issue of school places shortages is an issue I have been dealing with first hand and one that I have been seeking to tackle relentlessly especially in Wicklow. So many families have had to deal with undue stress and anxiety when it comes to school places in schools across the county. "Increasingly in Wicklow we are seeing a number of new classrooms opening which showcases my Government's commitment to meeting capacity with demand. I am acutely aware that more classrooms means more space which provides young children with better learning environments. "As such the announcement of new classrooms is overwhelmingly positive for children and parents. On top of new mainstream classrooms, the school is reconfiguring some space to allow for a new special education classroom and 5 special education tuition rooms which is great news for children with disabilities. Providing children with disabilities with special education facilities is an issue very close to my heart. I am delighted that the Department of Education continues to provide for extra capacity for children with disabilities to ensure schools in Wicklow are as inclusive as possible and that no child is left behind."



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New president for Wicklow Lions Club

On Wednesday 3rd July Wicklow & District Lions Club held their presidential handover evening in Chester Beaty's restaurant in Ashford.

After a stint of 2 years Maurice Corr handed over the chain of office to incoming President Ethna Neiland.

A Wicklow Town resident Ethna has been secretary for the past two years and is very accustomed to the workings of this very active club based in the town which also covers a large surrounding area.

Ethna said she was overjoyed at the prospect of serving as President of the Wicklow Club and to play her part in such a wonderful worldwide charity organisation.

She is looking forward to working with a great team for the coming two years.

The celebration event was also attended by Lions all Ireland District Governor James O'Loughlin from Ennis and Zone Chair Maureen Gibson from DunLaoghaire Lions Club.

Maurice thanked all the members their families and friends who came along on the night and wished Ethna all the best for the coming years.



Ethna Neiland new Lions President with husband Andrew Browne.



Sandra Fernandes and Deirdre O'Callaghan at the Redcross Church Summer Fete.

Celebrate community at the 2024 Greystones Picnic in the Park

An unforgettable day of fun, entertainment, and community spirit will take place at the 2024 Greystones Picnic in the Park, presented in partnership with Greystones Cancer Support, celebrating 30 incredible years of service, and the Greystones Town Team, a dedicated group of volunteers who put on this event every year.

This great family event is set to take place on Saturday, August 3rd, from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM, and promises an afternoon filled with joy, laughter, and unforgettable memories.

This year's Picnic in the Park offers an exciting lineup of performers

and activities that will delight attendees of all ages. Bring your picnic blanket and a delicious picnic, and prepare for a day brimming with entertainment, including:

- Peter Donnelly, the beloved children's author, who will be doing live readings and book sign-

ings that will captivate the young and young-at-heart.

- Robbie Doyle, a talented singer whose melodies will set the perfect backdrop for a summer afternoon.

- The mesmerizing performances of Greystones Baton twirlers, showcasing

ing their incredible skills.

- Tadgh Conway, another sensational local singer, adding to the musical delights of the day.

- The enchanting magic of Juliette & Dee from JD Magicians, sure to leave you spellbound.

- Special appearances by young singers Kate

Kavanagh and Abiha Mansoor from Kim Hayden music school

- Joe Daly, RTE Junior's favourite magician, will dazzle and entertain the little ones with his magical antics.

- Greystones Cancer Support Choir Canadh le Cheile will also perform

on the day.

In addition to the stellar lineup of performers, the event will feature a host of fun children's games, entertaining face painters, and many more surprises designed to keep the entire family entertained throughout the afternoon.

Organisers stated: "This year, we are taking the opportunity to use the Picnic in the Park to mark the 30th birthday of Greystones Cancer Support. For 30 years, Greystones Cancer Support has been a cornerstone of the community, providing invaluable support and resources to those affected by cancer.

This partnership for the Picnic in the Park underscores the importance of community solidarity and the joy of coming together to celebrate life and support each other."

Event Details:

- Date: Saturday, August 3rd, 2024 Time: 12:00 PM - 5pm. Location: Burnaby Park Greystones Admission: Free for all
- Keep an eye on Greystones.ie on social media for updates

"Just bring a picnic blanket and a picnic and come and join us for a great day of fun," said Tom O'Mahoney, Chair of Greystones Town Team. "We are thrilled to celebrate the 30th

anniversary of Greystones Cancer Support and the continuous efforts of the Greystones Town Team with this wonderful community event."

"We at Greystones Cancer Support rely on our community volunteers and fundraisers to be able to provide support to all the families that need us. We so appreciate the continued support from everyone in our community and this family day event organised by the Greystones Town Team is a way for us to just say a big Thank You to you all. Come and Enjoy," said Anne Ivory, Chairperson of Greystones Cancer Support.



Victor Evans, GCS, Fran Gillen, GCS, Abiha Mansoor, Singer, and Anne Ivory, GCS.



Members of Greystones Cancer Support, T.O.K.band, and JD Magicians with Amanda from Halfway Up the Stairs, Kate Kavanagh, Siofra Becton Kelliher, and Abiha Mansoor.

O'Connor family pay tribute to Wicklow community for 'keeping Brendan's memory alive'

The family of the late Wicklow Town resident, Brendan O'Connor, have paid tribute to the community for keeping their loved one's memory still alive.

For the first time since Covid-19, the Brendan O'Connor Cup was presented at a golf event at Blainroe Golf Club, where Brendan played for many years.

Brendan died following a battle with cancer in 2017 and cared about the community of Wicklow Town very dearly.

The overall winners on the day were the Brendan O'Connor team of Jack Neville (Captain), Collie Shortall, Tom Dunne and Liam Delaney (pictured).

Over the last number of weeks, the whole community of Wicklow rallied together to raise funds for Wicklow Cancer Support and Pretty Pink.

Huge crowds turned out at Blainroe last week to take part in the competition in support of these

two excellent local causes.

Speaking on the night, Niall, Brendan's son, said his late father would be so proud of the achievements of Blainroe Golf Club and the entire community.

"I was reminded of a phrase last week - and it really applies to today," Niall said.

And that's "Volunteer do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart".

Today has been led by people who have busy lives, and yet you still find it in yourselves to make a difference. It's a real credit to you all."

Niall continued: "Brendan would take such solace and strength in knowing that somewhere in our county, in our town, in our community - there's families dealing with

Cancer - and their struggle will be made just that little bit easier because of occasions like this.

On behalf of my mother Carmel, myself and my siblings Karen, Daniel and Ciara - thank you for keeping Brendan's flame still lit. And thank you for keeping Dad's memory still alive."

Niall concluded by thanking, in particular, the organising committee at Blainroe, led by Mary, Martina, Trish and GERALYN.

And he said he had scoured the whole town to locate the best players he could find to take home the Brendan O'Connor Cup this year.

He also thanked the other players that had represented the O'Connor Family this year; Dylan Orr, Philip Byrne, Stuart Porter and Kevin Maxwell.



At the Brendan O'Connor Cup presentation, L-R: Liam Delaney, Tom Dunne, Jack Neville (captain), Carmel O'Connor, Collie Shortall, and Niall O'Connor.

Blessington GAA club is 'Support for Sport' recipient

Blessington GAA Club has been announced as one of the 25 sports clubs chosen to receive funding under this year's 2024 Texaco Support for Sport initiative.

In its fourth year, the scheme is hosted and organised by Valero Energy (Ireland) Limited, the company that markets fuel in Ireland under the Texaco brand, with judging overseen by former Irish rugby international and well-known broadcaster, Donncha O'Callaghan.

Of the clubs receiving funding this year, €35,000 is divided equally amongst seven soccer clubs, with a further €50,000 shared equally amongst three rugby clubs, three hurling clubs, two Gaelic football clubs, and two tennis clubs.

In addition, a further €40,000

is divided between eight clubs whose disciplines include archery, athletics, basketball, boxing, GAA (combined games), gymnastics, handball and squash, all receiving €5,000 in each case.

This year, no qualifying entry was received in County Sligo and, as a result, the €5,000 award that might otherwise have gone to a deserving club in the county will remain unrepresented.

The purpose of the Texaco

Support for Sport initiative is to help ease financial pressure on sports clubs throughout the country and, since its inception, over €500,000 has been distributed to a variety of more than 100 Irish sports.

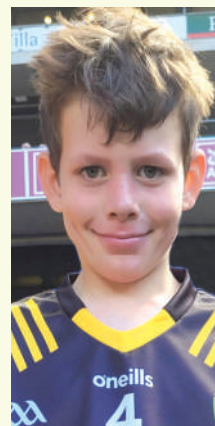
An invitation to enter the 2025 Texaco Support for Sport initiative will issue again in the Autumn, with entries open to all clubs, including those whose application may have been unsuccessful previously.

Eire Og Greystones player gets on the scoresheet in Croke Park

Conall Barrett, Gaelscoil na gCloch Liath and Eire Og Greystones, enjoyed a wonderful day participating in the INTO mini games at Croke Park on Saturday 6th July at half-time during the Senior All-Ireland Hurling semi-final between Clare and Kilkenny.

Conall wore the colours of Kilkenny CLG on the day and took a lovely point in the game to get on the scoresheet. Conall had won the opportunity to participate in the INTO mini games by winning the Wicklow Allianz Cumann na mBunscol hurling skills competition alongside Bobby Murphy from Michael O' Dwyers in April at the Wicklow GAA Centre of Excellence in Ballinakill.

On the day, Conall met up with over 40 boys and girls, including his new found friend Bobby Murphy from Michael O' Dwyers, in the Barbara Ward Clonliffe & Croke Park



Conall Barrett

Community Centre at 12 p.m. on the day of the match. He walked with all his team mates down to Croke Park meeting

all the fans going to the hurling and camogie games in Croke Park. The teams changed in the dressing rooms into the colours of Co. Kilkenny and Co. Clare and then had their photographs taken on the pitch with Cumann na mBunscol Coiste Náisiúnta and the GAA President Jarlath Burns.

Conall took the field with his teammates at half-time in the Senior All-Ireland Hurling semi-final. All the players including Conall and Bobby put on fantastic displays of skill, determination and effort and represented their schools, clubs, county and families with great pride.



A wonderful day was had recently at the Cumann na mBunscol Áth Cliath Girls Football Blitz, held in Parnell Park. The Wicklow girls were there representing six schools in Greystones: Greystones Educate Together, St Brigid's, St Kevin's, St Laurence's, Greystones Community National School and St Patrick's. They met teams from Laois, Westmeath, Carlow and Offaly. Some great skills were on show and the girls worked really well as a team. Thanks to Cumann na mBunscol Áth Cliath for organising such a memorable occasion for the girls.



St. Joseph of Cluny is a CoEducational School from September 2025 with the phased introduction of boys into First Year

OPEN DAY

Tuesday, September 24th from 5 to 8pm

We welcome boys and girls from Sixth class to attend our Open Day on September 24th from 5-8pm

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Phone: 01-2855027

Email: office@clunykillyneie.ie

Website: www.clunykillyneie.ie

Address: St Joseph of Cluny, Ballinclea Road, Killynery, Co. Dublin, A96 DK13



Patrick Bracken and Adam Grace at the Wicklow Pride Festival in Wicklow Town.

Wicklow property prices rise by €4,000 in Q2

Median asking price for a property in the county now €399,000

Property prices in Wicklow have risen by €4,000 during the quarter, according to the latest MyHome.ie Property Price Report. The report for Q2 2024 shows that the median asking price for a property in the county is now €399,000. This means prices have risen by €4,000 compared with this time last year.

Asking prices for a 3-bed semi-detached house in the county stayed steady over the quarter at €395,000. This means that prices in the segment up by €10,000 compared to this time last year.

Meanwhile, the asking price for a 4-bed semi-detached house in Wicklow stayed flat over the quarter at €495,000. This price is also steady compared to this time last year.

There were 650 properties for sale in Wicklow at the end of Q2 2024 - an increase of 17% over the quarter. The average time for a property to go sale agreed in the county after being placed up for sale now stands at four months.

The author of the report, Conall MacCoille, Chief Economist at Bank of Ireland, said: "The clear message from the Q2 2024 MyHome.ie Property Price Report is that house prices have gained further momentum. Asking prices rose by 5% in Q2 2024, up 7.3% on the year, the highest figure since Q3 2022.

"This represents an acceleration in the pace of annual asking price inflation from 6.5% in Q1 2024. Furthermore, the pick-up in the pace of asking price inflation has been broad based across Dublin (7.2%) and the rest of Ireland (7.6%)."

He said that the sustained strength of the Irish labour market was having a significant effect. "The 4.7% rise in average earnings to €50,300 in the year to Q1 2024 was always likely to push up house prices.

Indeed, the average mortgage

approval in April was €313,000, also up 4.6% on the year." He added that the relaxation of the Central Bank mortgage lending rules for first-time buyers had seen the share of first-time buyers with a loan-to-income ratio on their mortgage between 3.5x-4x leap from 6% in 2022 to 36% last year.

"The fierce competition between homebuyers has continued into the second quarter, with residential transactions in May being settled by 6% on average above the original asking price," he said.

Another factor impacting prices is the continual poor levels of property supply in the market. "There were just 12,500 properties listed for sale at end-June, still close to the historic low in Q1 2024 and down 11% on 2023. To some extent this appears to reflect a hangover from 2023, when reports of falling house prices, stretched affordability and ECB rates led many would-be vendors to incorrectly fear demand was soft. This trend may reverse but will take time," Mr MacCoille said.

"The second quarter of the calendar year is particularly important for asking prices, set ahead of the busy summer trading season, before the market cools heading into the winter. The momentum in the market means a high single digit gain in the order of 5-6% for the year in full now looks likely."

Joanne Geary, Managing Director of MyHome.ie, said: "The strength of our labour market is of course a positive thing, but without an adequate supply of properties to meet the demand

generated by rising incomes, it is inevitable that competition will remain intense. It will take time for the growing rate of housing starts to have a real impact, but it is promising to see this figure move in the right direction."

Responding to the report, IPAV, the Institute of Professional Auctioneers & Valuers, said as a country we can continue with the policies and systems we have and see homes continuing to be the preserve of the better off in society or we can change the system more radically to taper house price and rental growth and once again make home ownership achievable for those on average incomes.

Pat Davitt, IPAV's Chief Executive, said: "Far too much of the current debate centres around numbers such as, the size of the housing deficit, housing need into the future, the effect of the recent changes in the Central Bank mortgage lending rules, and higher salaries pushing up prices.

"There is, and has been for nearly a decade at this stage, a consensus on the need to substantially increase housing supply," he said.

"We can continue to argue about the semantics or we can coordinate and make far more efficient the whole system of developing and delivering homes," he said.

And he said the recent Housing Commission report provided a blueprint for such change. It is in the interest of all in society that it be implemented, without further delay," he said.

New guide highlights 'seven deadly delays' in selling a property

A new consumer guide has identified issues relating to documentation, planning and taxes as among the prime causes of delays when buying and selling a property in Ireland.

The guide, which is primarily aimed at sellers but will also be of interest to buyers, has been published by the Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland and the Law Society of Ireland with the aim of speeding up property sales.

It sets out in detail the steps anyone selling a property needs to take, the questions they need to ask, who they need to contact as well as how long it usually takes and costs.

Shirley Coulter CEO of the Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland says that while the average timeframe to complete a sale is over four months, for a significant number of sales there can be considerable delays.

"Many people don't realise the volume of documentation around key issues which needs to be gathered to complete a property sale. One key

document is the property's title deeds, which is often held by a bank or other lender, but others include copies of marriage or civil partnership certificates and land registry and mapping documents.

"Additional information and documentation may be required if third parties have rights over a property such as a right of residence or right of way or if there have been boundary issues or disputes with a neighbour. Compliance

with or exemptions from planning permission and/or building regulations is an area where we are seeing an increasing number of holdups. For example, if a building extension has been added on, copies of planning permissions and evidence of compliance with that permission and with building regulations will be required.

"If the extension was

below the size threshold to require planning permission a certificate of exemption will be needed. A valid Building Energy Rating (BER) certificate and BER Advisory Report are legally required if you are selling a property. So, the sooner you engage your professional team the sooner you can begin gathering the relevant documents," Ms Coulter said.

Both organisations are advising anyone who is contemplating selling a property to read 'Speed up your property sale - a guide to avoiding the most common delays'.

Mark Garrett, Director General of the Law Society said, "For most people buying or selling a house is the biggest transaction they will be involved in. However, the process they have to deal with is antiquated, overly complex and can involve up to 15 interdependent

parties as well as dozens of documents. A delay at any point can have a knock-on effect on the process and lead to significant delays, which can in turn negatively impact the Irish housing market."

The guide notes that measures to prevent money laundering and a requirement to collect outstanding taxes and charges have been introduced in recent years. The latter includes evidence of payment of the Local Property Tax and Household Charge. It also notes the requirement when selling a property of the need for confirmation from Uisce Eireann that services such as water supply are in place and are being managed by the utility company as well as confirmation from your local authority that they are responsible for the maintenance of the roads in your estate.

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www.wicklowtimes.ie

and click the link or email info@localtimes.ie and we will email you a copy!

Protest in Bray as criminal barristers withdraw service

Following a recommendation from the Council of The Bar of Ireland last month, criminal barristers around the country withdrew their services on Tuesday, July 9th in the first of three days of withdrawal this month.

Protests took place last week at 16 courthouses nationwide where criminal cases were due to be heard on the day, including the Criminal Courts of Justice in Bray.

This is an escalation on the unprecedented action taken by criminal barristers all over the country on October 3rd last, with the aim of seeking an independent, meaningful, time-limited and binding mechanism to determine the fees paid to criminal barristers by the Director of Public Prosecutions and under the Criminal Justice (Legal Aid) Scheme.

Following the first withdrawal on October 3rd 2023, a 10% restoration was subsequently announced in Budget 2024 on October 10th 2023. However, even after this 10% was restored, the full range of FEMPI-era cuts that were applied across the public sector, continue to apply to the profession, and the unilateral breaking of the link (in 2008) to public sector pay agreements has yet to be restored.

This is despite a Government commissioned review in 2018 acknowledging that the reversal of the cuts was justified given the level of reform and flexibilities delivered by the profession.

Sara Phelan SC, Chair of the Council of The Bar of Ireland said: "It is with regret that we have recommended to criminal practitioners that they withdraw service again. No barrister wishes to be in this position, but we have been left with no choice. The Government has just reported on the complete unwinding of FEMPI legislation this month, yet FEMPI-era cuts still apply to our profession. This is despite the fact that the role of criminal barristers has evolved significantly in that time frame, and we have at all times delivered on the required reforms and flexibilities.

"Yet, barristers continue to be treated differently to others in the criminal justice system and indeed to society at large. All we are seeking is fairness, and for appropriate investment in the criminal justice system. A failure to so invest will result in continued attrition at the criminal bar, which will in turn add to the delays already being experienced by members of the public involved in the criminal justice system in these delays can often be very difficult, in particular for victims of crime and accused persons, all of whom are seeking to have their rights vindicated. The ball is in the Government's court now."



Aisling Maher, Poppy O'Connor and Alannah Maher at the Pride Festival in Wicklow Town.

Holidaymakers abroad warned to be extra vigilant for fraud

Bank of Ireland is warning customers to be extra vigilant of fraud when travelling on holidays. The Bank is reminding customers to check their banking details prior to travelling, be alert to potential signs of scams while away and if an offer looks too good to be true, it could be fraud.

Customers should take the time to confirm their card details are in-date, so that cards are valid throughout the holiday. Customers should also save the contact numbers of their bank's customer service line, travel insurance provider and airline

helpdesk, in case of any emergencies.

Try to keep credit and debit cards in separate locations so that if a purse or wallet is stolen, you have an alternative. If a card is lost or stolen, you can freeze your card immediately through the

app or call the customer service line for further assistance.

Make sure that you check your text messages when you're abroad so you don't miss alerts that the Bank might send about potential fraudulent transactions.

When using a card to pay, make sure it is always within view to avoid it being skimmed.

Fraudsters can illegally collect data from the magnetic stripes of a bank card, and customers should keep a close eye on their card or device (if

using a digital wallet) when transactions are taking place. Where possible, use physical card, chip and PIN for payment.

When withdrawing cash from cash machines, avoid machines that are in poor condition and look out for the following:

- Be aware of 'shoulder surfing' in an ATM queue - don't get side-tracked by others when using the

machine and take care not to let anyone see your PIN.

- Be especially mindful if withdrawing larger amounts of cash.

- Have your card ready when going to cash machines, to avoid searching through a wallet or handbag to find it.

- Review your recent transactions on Banking 365

Accommodation scams are becoming an increasingly significant concern for holidaymakers with the rise in popularity of online booking and third-party websites. Rental accommodation scams are designed to trick customers into paying for accommodation which is not available for rent or does not exist.

Try to book through

established letting agent, but if booking directly request proof of identification from the landlord. Anyone who suspects they have been a victim of fraud should contact their bank immediately so that the bank can try to stop the fraud and try to recover funds. Bank of Ireland customers can call the Fraud Team 24/7.



THE CALL FOR BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT AND SANCTIONS

Since 1948, Israel has denied Palestinians their fundamental rights and has refused to comply with international law. Israel maintains a brutal regime of settler colonialism, apartheid and occupation over the Palestinian people. In addition to this, Israel has waged a genocidal campaign against the people of Gaza, killing at least 40,000 people and injuring nearly 100,000 more, in the past nine months alone.

This is only possible because of international support. Governments fail to hold Israel to account, while corporations and institutions across the world help Israel to oppress Palestinians.

Because those in power refuse to act to stop this injustice, Palestinian civil society has called for a global citizens' response of solidarity with the Palestinian struggle for freedom, justice and equality. This led to the Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement as a form of non-violent pressure on Israel.

What can you do to help?

You can take part in a consumer boycott of Israeli goods and services and of companies whose exports are linked to some of the most evident aspects of the Israeli occupation and apartheid.

Supermarket products you should refuse to buy

The Israeli barcode usually starts with the numbers 729. However, it doesn't necessarily appear on all Israeli products so be sure to always check the label or ask your supplier for country of origin.

Check the country of origin for produce, particularly for oranges, carrots, potatoes, dates and avocados.



729 = MADE IN ISRAEL

- **Tivall** is an Israeli company that produces vegetarian foods.
- **Sabra** is an Israeli company that sells hummus and other dips. Its parent company, the **Strauss Group**, provides financial support to the Israeli occupation forces.
- **Sudocrem**, for many years thought of as a quintessentially Irish brand, was bought out by Teva (an Israeli company) in 2016.

Certain own brand **Babywipes** (such as **Lupilu**) are made in Israel.

Other companies to boycott

Act Now Against These Companies Profiting from the Genocide of the Palestinian People

Consumer boycott targets: 	Divestment and exclusion targets:
Pressure targets: 	Organic boycott targets:

Contact North Wicklow Against Genocide for further information about the BDS movement and to get involved! Join us!



All That's Left of You in Me

An Exhibition by Louise Cherry

Signal Arts Centre, Monday 22nd July to Sunday 4th August

Enter the magical world of this exciting new work by Wicklow artist Louise Cherry. Her imaginative approach to the conventions of life drawing and the codes of visual representation have allowed her to create a brave, challenging and intriguing collection of vibrant, imaginary narratives.

The juxtaposition of the nude form within her fantastical worlds force the viewer to question the representation of the nude within art, within contemporary culture and within the hidden yet readily available cyber world impacting our lives and the lives of our children. Cherry's nudes, without detail, deliberately featureless, anonymous, and an almost

androgynous visual of the naked body, challenge the viewers gaze and interest.

The floating naked figures, juxtaposed to their surroundings force the viewer to question the purpose of nudes within the narrative and ask why are there at all. Cherry has placed the anonymous nude within abstract explosions of colour, to symbolise anonymity, secrecy and chaos within the unseen and unsupervised ersatz cyber world our children live in.

Text, referencing both children's fairy tales and cyber porn code, allow humour infiltrate this otherwise serious work.

Through visual pleasure combined with visual confusion, Cherry



'Lost in the Cyber Corn Fields' by Louise Cherry

challenges her viewer to enter her fantastical world and explore some of these concepts with her.

"I began by researching my late father's life drawings, his abstract paintings and his books Rubens and Rodin but my process took me on a

visual adventure and these fantasy images are the result. It is not the project I expected, and that really excites me. My process be increasingly influenced by listening to the experiences of my teenage children and their friends, grow-

ing up in a digital cyber culture where nothing is controlled or monitored. Where explicit sexual images are constantly at their fingertips by simply swiping a screen. Hidden from view, generations of children are now growing up seeing explicit images

they are too young for without any restrictions. These issues have hugely influenced this work."

Opening Reception:
Thursday 25th July, 7pm
to 9pm
Artist's Talk:
Wednesday 31st July, 7pm



'Red Riding Hood Contemplates Swimming' by Louise Cherry

Phelim Drew Band: Folk, Blues & Banter

Whale Theatre, Saturday 20th, 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets €25 and available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550.

Phelim is delighted to be back at The Whale for this summer night with a "top of the bus" band: The incomparable Anto Drennan on guitar. A master of his craft who has explored his innatemusicality through working alongside Moving Hearts, Chris Rea, Mike and the Mechanics, The Corrs and a thousand recordings where you went "Who. Is. That?!!". Well, it was probably Anto.

Chris Greene on double bass, whose playing, seemingly effortlessly, evokes the spiritualbackbone of Rockabilly, Blues, Americana and Irish Traditional music.

Kevin Malone on drums, who breathes life musically through his body exuding rhythms thatseem to make time stand still. A gifted poet with a mesmerising delivery, he is spellbinding.

The evening will celebrate a journey of the pastfew years collecting spoken word and a wealth of music from both sides of the Atlantic interspersed with 'the bants' exploring the wonderful world of Malapropisms among other amusements intended to feed the hungry heart.

Rattle and Hum

Whale Theatre, Friday 19th July, 8pm (doors 7pm). Sold out but register at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550 for any returns.

It's no easy gig being a tribute band, particularly when your inspiration is U2. Not only are they one of the highest profile bands on earth, but their legendary musical ability, passion and vitality are an integral part of the complete package.

For a tribute band, this means you have to look right, you must do justice to some of the finest rock music ever written and you have to capture and transmit that indefinable energy that fuels U2. Meet Rattle and Hum. Coming from Dublin themselves has maybe given them an advantage over other U2 tribute bands, but it doesn't end there. They are also impeccable and experienced musicians who possess both the physical power and the psychic energy that playing the music of U2 to a live audience demands.

The four members, despite individual visual theatrics, become one powerful unit onstage, much like U2 themselves. With songs performed from U2's Debut album "Boy", right up to their last album "Songs of Experience" Rattle and Hum have it all covered. So if you want to witness a U2 show in a smaller venue then check out the band when they arrive to a venue near you.



Artist Don Copnroy cuts the ribbon at the recent official launch of 'Wicklow Wander Walls' in Wicklow Town. A number of murals and artworks have been installed around Wicklow Town over the last year, commissioned by Wicklow Town Team following a successful application under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme.

German-based actor and influencer explores Wicklow

A popular actor and influencer in Germany, Olivia Marei, has been visiting Ireland's Ancient East - as a guest of Tourism Ireland and Fáilte Ireland. Olivia, who grew up in Vienna and now lives in Germany, stars in a well-known German TV series called GZSZ (Gute Zeiten, schlechte Zeiten), in which she plays the role of a detective called Toni. She has a large following on social media, with around 176,000 followers on Instagram and 77,000 on TikTok.



Olivia's action-packed programme included Beyond the Trees Avondale, Glendalough and a fun K2Alpacas trek in Newtown. She stayed in the Glendalough Hotel. Nadine Lehmann, Tourism Ireland's Manager Germany, said: "We know that holidaymakers are increasingly using social media for inspirational travel content and ideas and, in particular, content posted by well-known personalities, so we were delighted to invite Olivia Marei to discover Wicklow. "She has been generating and sharing wonderful content about her visit - inspiring her followers, in turn, to put Ireland's Ancient East and Ireland on their holiday 'wish-list' for 2024 and beyond."



German-based actor and influencer Olivia Marei enjoys the Glen Beach Cliff Walk.

Olivia Marei exploring the Wicklow mountains

Keeping Bees - a talk on their importance to our ecosystem

Mermaid Arts Centre, Thursday 18th July, 10:30am

Billy Markham will be giving a talk on keeping bees and their importance to our ecosystem, as Glendarragh Studios in Co. Wicklow celebrates its 25th anniversary this year.

This milestone is commemorated at Mermaid Arts Centre, where the Studio's members recreate the atmosphere of a thriving artists community, giving an insight into

varied practices including ceramics, bronze casting, painting, print-making, sculpture, photography and gardening. Visit and enjoy this glimpse into the working lives of professional artists, participate in informal talks, demonstrations, workshops and opportunities to chat over a cup of coffee and cake. With Chloe Dowds, Cathy Burke, Yanny Petters, Fiona Coffey, Jean Clyne, Brenda Malley, Erica Devine, David Eager Maher, Fergal

Flanagan, James Hayes, Paul Douglas, Simon Lazewski, Heather Muir, Jenny Dungan and Helen McNulty. Glendarragh Studios was founded in 1999 in response to the growing shortage of quality studio space within easy reach of Dublin. The first four purpose built studios were built with the help of LEADER, (European funding for rural development) and a further four studios were added in 2002. Just 35kms south of Dublin and situated in a beautiful rural valley in North County Wicklow, the Studios are surrounded by farmland. Its artists have access to three kilns for ceramic or glass work, hand and power tools, and a print studio.

Cinema at Mermaid: Blackbird Blackbird Blackberry (Cert: 15)

Monday 15th July, 8pm. Tickets:€10/8

Etero, a 48-year-old woman living in a small village in Georgia, never wanted a husband. She cherishes her freedom as much as her cakes. But her choice to live alone is the cause of much gossip among her fellow villagers. Unexpectedly, she finds herself passionately falling for a man, and is suddenly faced with the decision to pursue a relationship or continue a life of independence. Etero must grapple with her feelings and decide how to find her own path to happiness. Eka Chavleishvili was awarded Best Actress in both the Belfast and Dublin Film Festivals. Georgian with English subtitles.



DEISEANNA FOSTAÍOCHTA IN
OIFIG NA nOIBREACHA POIBLÍ
OIBRÍ GINEARÁLTA BANDA 3
(TUAITHE)

IN OIFIG NA NOIBREACHA
POIBLÍ AG SEIRBHÍS NA
SÉADCHOMHARTHAÍ NÁISIÚNTA
GLEANN DÁ LOCH,
CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN

Tagairt an Chomórtais: 2024/055

Tá iarratais á lorg le haghaidh na bpost thuas.
Tá sonraí an chomórtais agus foirmeacha
iarratais le fáil ar www.gov.ie/opw

Is é an dáta deiridh a ghlacfar le hiarratais
chomhlánaithe ná tráth nach déanaí ná
5.30pm Dé Luain, an 12 Lúnasa 2024.

Tá Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí tiomanta do
bheartas comhdheiseanna.



OPW

Oifig na
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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN
THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC WORKS
GENERAL OPERATIVE BAND 3
(RURAL)

IN THE OFFICE OF
PUBLIC WORKS AT
NATIONAL MONUMENTS
SERVICE, GLENDALOUGH,
CO WICKLOW

Competition Reference: 2024/055

Applications are invited for the above position.
Competition details and application forms are
available at www.gov.ie/opw

The closing date for receipt of completed
applications is **not later than 5:30pm on
Monday, 12th August 2024.**

The Office of Public Works is committed to a policy
of equal opportunity.



OPW

Oifig na
nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works

Vikings: Valhalla star Leo Suter shares his favourite places in Ireland



Vikings: Valhalla.

Tourism Ireland has unveiled a new video to coincide with the launch of season three of Vikings: Valhalla on Netflix (11th July), which was partially filmed in Wicklow.

The latest behind-the-scenes film from Tourism Ireland is fronted by English actor Leo Suter (who plays Harald Sigurdsson), who reminds viewers that the series was filmed on location in Co Wicklow. Viewers will see Leo describe what a Viking does on their day off and share some of his own favourite places to visit in Ireland, as well as the

activities he enjoyed during his downtime during filming here.

To view the behind-the-scenes film, click here. It is being shared with Tourism Ireland's fans and followers on YouTube in Great Britain, the United States, France, Spain, Canada, Sweden and Denmark.

Tourism Ireland's aim is to highlight our spectacular scenery, remind people that the series was filmed on location here and inspire viewers to come and follow Leo's recommendations!

Elmagh Killeen, Tourism Ireland's Head of Brand & Marketing Communications, said: "We are delighted that season three of Vikings: Valhalla was partially filmed in Co Wicklow - another great screen tourism opportunity for Tourism Ireland and a really great way to highlight the destination. The Netflix series is bringing the magnificent scenery of Co Wicklow to the attention of viewers



Lough Tay, Co. Wicklow

around the world. And, our behind-the-scenes film will remind our millions of followers on social media that filming for the series took place here, inspiring them to put Ireland on their holiday 'wish list'.

In the behind-the-scenes film, actor Leo Suter praises Slieve League, saying: "There is something magical about Slieve League in Donegal - it's a great hike and kind of Viking!"

Speaking about what he did in his downtime, Leo said: "I did like to go down to the Forty Foot in Dublin and have a swim there. That was very good for mind, body and soul. When I'm in the mood for some peace, a nice pub in Dublin with a book and a pint - and there's too many good pubs to pick one out!"



Vikings: Valhalla.

CLASSIFIEDS

ST. JUDE NOVENA PRAYERS St. Jude Novena Day 1

Join in praying the St. Jude Novena

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
Most holy St. Jude - apostle, martyr and friend of Jesus, today I ask you pray for me and my intentions!
(state your intentions here)
You are the patron of the impossible. Pray for me and my intentions! O St. Jude, pray that God's grace and mercy will cover my intentions. Pray for the impossible if it God's will.
A.M.

PRAYER FOR A SPECIAL REQUEST

Oh! Dear Mother of God. Our Lady of Conception Aparecida! Oh! Saint Rita of Cassia and Saint Jude worker of miracles and helper of impossible causes pray for me. Saint Expedite, Saint of urgent causes. Saint Edwige the Saint of the needy, you know how desperate I feel, please ask Jesus to help me (mention request) May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored and glorified for ever. Pray 1 Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be..... Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Pray for 3 days. Publish on the 3rd day. See what will happen on the 4th day.
A.McG.

OH, BEAUTIFUL FLOWER OF MOUNT CARMEL

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendour of Heaven, blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother. Oh, Holy Mary, Mother or God, Queen of Heaven and earth! I humbly beseech from the bottom of my heart to succour me in this necessity. There are none who can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my Mother. Oh, Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse in thee (3x). Holy Mother I place this cause in your hands (3x). say this prayer for 3 days and publish. Your prayers will be heard.
A.McG.

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.
A.McG.

PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, Bray Bowling Club, seek full planning permission for the removal of, two number, single storey existing prefabricated structures, (temporary changing rooms,) at west end of club house and the replacement of same with a single storey prefabricated structure (39.00 sqmts) containing two number changing rooms with toilet facilities, the retention of minor internal alterations to existing club house and ancillary site works at Bray Bowling Club, Faighte Park, Adelaide Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the office of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours. The planning application may be viewed on line at www.wicklow.ie under planning online enquiries. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20, within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application. and such submissions or observations will be considered by the planning authority in making a decision on the application. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

H.T. Carroll Limited seeks Planning Permission for (A) the addition of a new second floor comprising of an extended stairwell & 1 number, three bedroom apartment of c.120sqm, to the building which was previously granted planning permission Ref 22/203. This would result in an increase of total apartment units from the 4 number approved previously to 5 number in total now proposed (B) minor layout changes to the ground & first floors of the previously permitted building (C) new elevations & material treatments to the previously permitted building, and to now include for the addition of the new proposed second floor unit.; with associated private open spaces, parking, landscaping and drainage works at the site of former warehouse building at the corner of Burkes Lane / Dwyer Park, Ravenswell, Bray, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

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Arc Design seeks full planning permission on behalf of Niall and Barbara Mannion for the development at 7 Dromont, Kindletowns Upper, Delgany, County Wicklow, A63 VF79 which consists of:
(A) Sub division of the site and the construction of a new detached two storey four-bedroom dwelling.
(B) Proposed on-site effluent disposal system for new house and existing house along with soakaway to meet BRE Digest 365 standards.
(C) Providing two new vehicular entrances for existing 7 Dromont dwelling and the new dwelling along with entrance piers and gates.
(D) All associated site development works, drainage and landscaping to accommodate new dwelling. The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours. The planning application may be viewed online at www.wicklow.ie, under planning online enquiries. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20, within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the planning authority in making a decision on the application. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.

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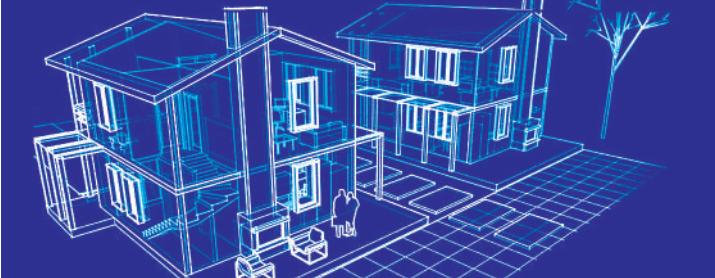
Planning permission is sought by Paul McClatchie and Maria Maguire for alterations and extensions to existing single storey (with converted attic and dormer windows) home at San Miguel, Glencormack South, Kilmacanogue, Bray, Co Wicklow, Eircode A98CR67. The application includes conversion of the existing garage and boiler area for use as a master bedroom and home office, internal reconfiguration of the existing living kitchen and ancillary areas, the addition of a utility and toilet area, the addition of one large bay window to the north elevation, the addition of one large bay window to the East elevation, and the addition of two additional bay windows to the South elevation. It includes replacement of the existing rear dormer window with a similar dormer of squared-off contemporary styling, and the replacement of the front dormer window with a new longer dormer window to serve three rooms. It includes raising the roof of the former garage area by 400mm, and the provision of a bay window at the new master bedroom location. It includes the installation of external insulation, and solar panels, and it includes the provision of a large patio area at the new East-facing bay window. It includes removal of two old sunrooms from the South elevation. Finally, it includes the provision of a 6 person EuroBio wastewater treatment unit with 120 sq metres of soil polishing filter in accordance with EPA 2009 standards, all to replace the existing septic tank. 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, Joe O'Neill intend to apply for Planning Permission for development at this site Woollen Mills, Derrybawn, Laragh, Co. Wicklow. The development will consist of: Permission sought for completion of 366.32 sq m first floor bedroom extension and roof to existing ground floor plan, Consisting of Dining room, Reception, Sun lounge, Toilets, Store, Lift and Lobby to existing ground floor extension. Car parking, Connection to existing services and site ancillary works. Granted Planning Ref No. 08/20. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of planning authority during its public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20, within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the planning authority in making a decision on the application. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.

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O'Hanlon's Herbs host Wicklow Naturally members networking evening

The Wicklow food and drinks network, Wicklow Naturally, held a members networking evening at the premises of O'Hanlon's Herbs in Glenealy, last Tuesday 9th August. The network regularly holds networking meetings for its members, with the aim of fostering connections between food and drinks producers and providers based in Co Wicklow.

Members were greeted on arrival by Tom O'Hanlon of O'Hanlon Herbs who invited his guests to take part in a guided tour of the herb growing facility. During the fascinating tour the visitors were guided through the impressive glasshouses by the very knowledgeable team from O'Hanlon's. The tour included all stages of the process, from germination to growing to packaging, with the use of technology and innovation contributing greatly to sustainable production.

The evening continued with refreshments in the adjoining reception area which is surrounded by

beautiful and fragrant herbs and plants. This special setting reminds visitors that although this business is a highly efficient and successful food producer, it remains close to nature in the middle of the Wicklow countryside. Tom O'Hanlon gave a brief history of this herb growing business which now comprises 2 acres under glass and produces over 3 million potted herbs and over 5 million cut herb packets per year to all the main retailers as well as independent stores and food service. The business is a member of Origin Green with a strong commitment to sustainable production

and clever packaging including compostable and recyclable pots.

Refreshments included herb flavoured drinks, and food was provided by Wicklow caterer Tadgh Byrne of Críoch Catering. Tadgh, a Wicklow Naturally member, Board Member and producer of the film Dinner 2050, is committed to using local and sustainably sourced ingredients. He created a delicious menu of Wicklow Canapes with ingredients from Le Paysan, Ballynerrin Eggs, Wicklow Farmhouse Cheese and Coolattin Cheddar.

Old MacDonnell's Farm and Janet's Country Fayre, all

garnished and flavoured with freshly picked O'Hanlon's Herbs.

Celebrity Chef Catherine Fulvio was in attendance along with many members of the Wicklow Naturally Network. Catherine's Ballyknocken Cookery School is a Wicklow Naturally member, and event coordinator Santana Kennedy thanked Catherine for her ongoing support for Wicklow Naturally through her media work and in her cookery courses.

Wicklow Naturally Board member John Cashman of Powerscourt Distillery thanked Tom O'Hanlon for his generous hospitality. He also thanked members for their participation, which contributes to fostering a strong and vibrant food and drinks network. Board member Paul Smith welcomed two new members 'Maidin Catering' and 'With Love - Baby and Toddler Food'.

Following updates from Santana Kennedy about current network activities including participation in the upcoming Tinahely Show and plans for October Feast, Fred Verdier Tourism Officer for Wicklow County Council advised members of funding from Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, secured by Wicklow Naturally, which will contribute to the creation of promo-



Kyle Petrie, Veronica O'Reilly, Liz Sheehan, Jeannie Conroy and Paul Diamond at the Wicklow Naturally networking evening in O'Hanlon Herbs.

tional videos and imagery for member businesses. Santana Kennedy also introduced the new social media coordinator Lisa Lundberg and thanked Lisa for the excellent quality of work on the Wicklow Naturally social media pages.

Guests left with a goodie bag of a generous selection of O'Hanlon Herbs which will no doubt be put to great use by the creative members of Wicklow Naturally, who are already renowned for their innovative collaborations. For more updates on Wicklow Naturally please see wicklownaturally.ie



Thea Kinsella, Catherine Fulvio and Duesa de Assis at the Wicklow Naturally networking evening in O'Hanlon Herbs.



Jim Healy, Lucy MacDonnell and Dermot Caffery at the Wicklow Naturally networking evening in O'Hanlon Herbs.



Santana Kennedy, Paul Smith, Fred Verdier and Lisa Lundberg at the Wicklow Naturally networking evening in O'Hanlon Herbs.

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