



BRADY SELECTED
Page 6



BRAY COURTHOUSE
Page 8



AVOCA WASTEWATER
Page 13

Delivered to 44,500
homes & businesses

DELIVERED TO HOMES & BUSINESSES IN: SHANKILL, ENNISKERRY, BRAY, GREYSTONES, DELGANY, KILCOOLE, NEWCASTLE, KILQUADE, ASHFORD, KILPEDDER, NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY, KILMACANOGUE, LARAGH, MONEYSTOWN, ROUNDWOOD, RATHNEW, WICKLOW, GLENEALY, BRITTAS BAY, AVOCA, WOODENBRIDGE, ARKLOW, SHILLELAGH, TINAHELY, REDCROSS, BALLINACLASH, AUGHIRM, RATHDRUM, DONARD, DUNLAVIN, CARNEW, COOLATTIN, BALTINGLASS, BLESSINGTON.

Tuesday 20th August 2024 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

VULTURE FUNDS VANQUISHED

VICTORY FOR DEMOCRACY AND FIRST-TIME BUYERS



Cllr Joe Behan.

Last week saw two shocking reports on property in Ireland which must have caused despair to would-be first-time buyers in County Wicklow.

A Report by Saviles said that the population was growing four times faster than houses were coming on stream; for every four new people in Ireland we were only providing one new house. The second Report by the Chartered Surveyors of Ireland was particularly dam-

ning for County Wicklow.

The SCSi Residential Property Price Monitor is a quarterly sentiment survey of SCSi members conducted jointly with the Central Bank of Ireland, consisting mainly of estate agents, auctioneers, and surveyors. While the principal



Lusi Elliot, Sophie Chandler, Zoe Chandler and Laura Hodgkinson are pictured at the Family Fun Day in Kenmare Heights, Greystones. Pic: John Mc Gowan.

focus is on participants' house price expectations, the survey also canvasses opinion on the factors underlying these views, and on members' assessment regarding the level of transactional activity in the market.

The report includes affordability scenarios for Cork, Galway and three Leinster commuter belt counties. An average County Wicklow couple on a combined income of €107K who want to buy a new 3-bed semi and have the 10% deposit will not be able to buy in the county and will face shortfalls of €78,000.

According to the latest SCSi Mid-Year Market Monitor, almost half of agents (46%) believe the key factor influencing house prices over the next 12 months will be the supply of new housing. Rents for a 2-bed terraced house

ranged from €1,733 in Galway to €2,061 in Wicklow. Including living expenses this means that estimated total expenses for a family of four in Galway would be €5,237 while in Wicklow it would be €5,565.

In the midst of this dismay news for home buyers, especially first time buyers, in County Wicklow there was quite dramatic and good news also. When the County Development Plan was being drawn up earlier this year, Independent councillor Joe Behan proposed that no development of apartments be allowed to be bought en-masse by vulture funds so as to allow first-time buyers a chance to purchase.

This proposal was supported by councillors and written into the Development Plan. However a developer and the Council brought

a challenge to this by way of appeal to An Bord Pleanála. Last week the Bord dismissed this challenge.

Speaking to Wicklow

Times Cllr Behan said "An Bord Pleanála's Continued on page 3

Arvo 3+1 3 Seater + Armchair
WAS €2290 **NOW €1295**

Valent dining table 2.1M
WAS €1395 **NOW €1165**

Layla 3ft Bed Frame (Photo shows Double)
WAS €595 **NOW €395**

Selene 2 Seater fixed sofa
WAS €1435 **NOW €995**

Ask about our
Interest free credit
available with
hummm
T&Cs apply



Flanagan Kerins®
'Furniture for Life'

+353 1 281 3338 sales@flanagankerins.ie



www.flanagankerins.ie

Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil
Local Enterprise Office

Boost Your Business Skills with the Local Enterprise Office

Thinking about starting a business?

Looking to improve your business skills and grow your small business?

Your Local Enterprise Office will help you to take the next step.

Upcoming training includes:

- Selling on Amazon 17/09/2024
- A Laypersons Guide to VAT and Income Tax 26/09/2024
- Start Your Own Business Course 01/10/2024
- Effective Use of Social-Media for your Business 16/10/2024
- Effective Marketing for SMEs 17/10/2024

For further details or to book go to:
www.localenterprise.ie/Wicklow/Training-Events/Online-Bookings

Local Enterprise Office Wicklow, Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow
Phone: 0404 30800 Email: enterprise@leo.wicklowcoco.ie



Kai Keogh Davies and Cassandra Dunne at the Codling Wind Park Irish Beach Sprint Championship at Brittas Bay.

Wicklow Gaol Comrades Exhibition opens

The exhibition in Tinahely Library this week is part of a collaborative project between the archives services of Wicklow and Wexford County Councils: Wicklow Gaol Comrades: A Civil War Autograph Book.

The project consists of an exhibition, publication, and video and tells the stories of the men held in Wicklow Gaol during the Civil War. The prisoners feature in a 1923 autograph book, which was donated to Wexford County Archives many years ago. It consists of rhymes, messages, sketches and cartoons.

As part of the project, relatives of the prisoners were traced and were welcomed to Wicklow Gaol on the night of the launch and thanked for their invaluable contributions to the publication, video and exhibition.

It offers a rich resource for researchers of wide and varying interests - students, teachers, local and family historians, academic researchers and those interested in the story of County Wicklow, the history and development of the county, of local communities, and the authorities who served them.

This project is one of several Decade of Centenary projects by the Wicklow County Archives service, which is located at Wicklow Library in Wicklow Town.

Bray Cualann Historical Society

Brian White will lead a Heritage Week Walk from the Promenade Bandstand to Bray Harbour at 11am. on Monday August 19th, repeated at 3pm on Wednesday August 21st and at 7pm on Friday August 23rd. Participants take part at their own risk and should dress appropriately for each day's prevailing weather conditions. Assembly point is the bandstand on Bray Esplanade.

Abercorn Masonic Hall

A warm welcome will be extended to visitors to Abercorn Masonic Hall in Ferrybank, Arklow, on Tuesday 20th August by members of an ancient Society which dates back to 1903. See inside this Freemasons' lodge from 4pm to 8pm (suited to all age groups).

Local History Talks at Wicklow Town Library

Wicklow Town Library Branch is delighted to host two exciting local history talks as part of their Heritage Week schedule of events. These include:

Tuesday 20th August @ 7pm: A Book Lost in Time - Rediscovered! A talk about life in Wicklow town in the late 1600s' with Therese Hicks. For the first time, a book which gives us a direct look into life in Wicklow town 350 years ago has been transcribed into modern readable script. Come and hear about who was living in the town, what they did and how the town grew. Will your family's surname be in this book? What kind of jobs were being carried out then? Where was the hurling field? Would you take the oaths?

Thursday 22nd August at 7pm: 'In The Belly Of The Beast' Tales From Wicklow's Historic Jail' with Frank Hopkins. Join historian and author Frank Hopkins for a fascinating romp through the lesser-known facts of Wicklow Gaol's history. Based on extensive research, and delivered with Hopkins' unique wit and humour, this talk will look at the newspaper headlines of the day to reveal many of the less publicised aspects of Wicklow Jail's history.

If you would like to attend, please contact Wicklow Town Library branch on 0404 67025 or email wicklib@wicklowcoco.ie

National Heritage Week events in Wicklow

National Heritage is happening from Saturday 17th to Sunday 25th of August. This year, the list of events promises to be bigger than ever, with over 60 events scheduled to take place over nine days.

The majority of events are free and family friendly and seek to strengthen connections with Wicklow's rich heritage including nature, wildlife, monuments, folklore and history. Among the highlights include the following;

- Wicklow's Military Road Stories Evening with Fin Dwyer from Irish History Podcasts at Brockagh Centre, Laragh
- Wicklow Barn Owls Poo and Pellets Workshop at Rathdrum Library
- Connecting St. Kevin: Heritage open days at St Kevin's Church of Ireland, Hollywood and St. Kevin's Church in Glendalough Monastery.
- Historic Graveyards Workshop in Wicklow Library
- Dublin & Blessington Steam Tram exhibition in Blessington Tourist Office and Wicklow Archives exhibitions at Tinahely and Carnew.
- Art and poetry events in Arklow and Greystones
- Heritage Market at Tinahely Village
- Evening Bat Walks at Knocksink Nature Reserve and Donard

- Village
- Wild Child Nature exploration at Baltyboys and children's Big Dig archaeology excavation and Lego workshops at Glendalough
- Heritage Hikes to explore Church Mountain and Seefin Tombs
- Medieval pilgrimage walks and talks
- Specialist talks on drystone walls, Invasive Species, Ogham script, local history, genealogy and archives
- Specialist guided walking tours at Delgany, Tinahely, Greystones, Bray, Enniskerry, Roundwood, Kilmacurragh Arboretum, Kilruddery, Knocksink, Castle-ruddery, Glenmalur , Dunlavin and Glen-dalough.
- Special open days at Altadore Castle, Kilruddery House, Old Conna Graveyard Bray, Russborough House, Nuns Cross Church, Glenealy Church, Christchurch Bray and at ESB's Turlough Hill Hydropower station

For the full program of events, please visit <https://www.heritage-week.ie/event-listings> and filter your search by 'County Wicklow'.

Click on the 'heart icon' to create your own events trail.

Co-ordinated nationally by The Heritage Council and locally by the Heritage Office of Wicklow County Council, National Heritage Week has become one of Wicklow's most successful cultural celebrations.

This year's theme 'Connections, Routes and Networks' celebrates how we connect to each other; the links between people and communities. These could be physical routes such as roads, paths, boreens, rivers, pilgrim paths and rail tracks. They may symbolise journeys undertaken to farm and to conquest, to trade and to discover, and to seek out new adventures.

Event organisers interested in ordering branded merchandise (T-Shirts, flags and bunting); can send an email to the Heritage Officer of Wicklow County Council at dburns@wicklowco-co.ie.

For further information on Heritage Week and current events, visit www.heritageweek.ie.

The Children From Operation Shamrock exhibition in Mermaid

You are invited to the opening reception of The Children From Operation Shamrock exhibition opened in Mermaid's gallery on Saturday 17th August. The opening featured a talk by Monica Brandis. This exhibition runs until Saturday 31st August.

Operation Shamrock was a humanitarian project started by the Dublin-based "Save the German Children Society" and organized by the Irish Red Cross in the aftermath of the Second World War. It placed more than 400 German children in the care of Irish families. The children were aged between four and ten years old and came from the Rhein-Ruhr area of Germany, then a British occupied zone and with a high Catholic population.

Monica Brandis started to collect the stories of the "Children from 'OP Shamrock'" in 2015. So far she has interviewed 24 participants, first accompanied by photographer Sidarta Coral, then by Boris Albert.

The exhibition has travelled extensively across Germany and Ireland. In 2020 Monica published the book, "The Children from Operation Shamrock - Historical Context, Testimonies and Fictionalised Memory Fragments", based on the

exhibition.

The book consists of interviews with the original eighteen participants as well as an historical analysis of the origins,

circumstances and participants of Operation Shamrock. In addition, short stories based on real incidents yet creatively transformed add

an emotional dimension to the participants' early childhood experiences of separation and loss but also affection and healing.

Benville Robinson LLP
SOLICITORS

Personal Injury Lawyers*

Medical Negligence* Catastrophic Injuries*
Workplace Accidents* Road Traffic Accidents*
Trips and Falls*

For professional, confidential and expert legal advice regarding Personal Injuries suffered, please do not hesitate to contact Clare-Ann Temple or Hannah Stockwell-Quinn.

<p>Brian Robinson B.B.L.S., L.L.M. State Solicitor</p> <p>Eilish Bradshaw B.A., L.L.B., L.L.M. Clare-Ann Temple L.L.B.</p>	<p>Ciara O'Sullivan B.B.L.S., (Euro) Hannah Stockwell-Quinn B.C.L., L.L.M.</p> <p>Peter McQuillan B.A. (Mod) Leg Sc TCD</p>
--	---

24A Florence Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

Tel: 01 276 1330
E-mail: info@benvilleroobinson.ie
Web: www.benvilleroobinson.ie

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

BRAY
ACMEblinds Vevay Rd, Bray

- **Free Fitting**
- **Free Measuring**
- Service**
- **Free In Home Advice & Design Service**
- **No Obligation Quote**

12 Month Guarantee on ALL Blinds

Tel: 286 5057 Fax: 201 4335 www.acmeblinds.com
email: bray@acmeblinds.com

Improved health service connectivity for customers travelling from Wicklow to St Vincent's



Minister Stephen Donnelly.

Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly has welcomed improved health service connectivity for customers travelling from Wicklow to St Vincent's Hospital.

"I am aware of the challenges of relying on public transport to travel for appointments in St Vincent's Hospital, and have frequently heard from constituents how awkward connectivity to St. Vincent's Hospital is when travelling from Arklow and the need for

easier access," said Minister Donnelly.

"I have spoken with Bus Eireann to change the bus timetable and increase the frequency of services that serve Arklow and stop at Nutley Lane, opposite St Vincent's. An amendment was submitted to

the National Transport Authority (NTA) at the end of 2023 requesting that all services on Expressway Route 2 operate via Nutley Lane and serve St. Vincent's Hospital.

"This will mean that all Expressway Route 2 services will stop at

Nutley Lane (St. Vincent's Hospital) in both directions, thereby offering improved health service connectivity for customers traveling along the corridor. I am delighted that all buses travelling to and from Arklow will stop at Nutley Lane and serve St Vincent's Hospital. The new Expressway Route 2 timetable will be in place from this October."

Additional bus services for Blessington

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has welcomed the announcement from the NTA and Dublin Bus that they will be increasing services on the 65 bus route between Blessington and Poolbeg Street and introducing a new 65A bus route for the area.

"This is good news for the communities in Blessington and the surrounding area who depend on the 65 bus route. The inclusion of four additional buses a day on the route as well as the introduction of the new 65A bus service between Blessington and Tallaght marks a significant and very welcome increase to public transport services for the

area," commented Deputy Whitmore.

"The lack of capacity and need for increased frequency on the 65 bus route is an issue that constituents in West Wicklow contact myself and our Local Area Rep, Deirdre McCormack, about on a regular basis. I have met with the NTA and Dublin Bus on a number of occasions to discuss the urgent

need to improve the 65 bus service and raised the issue directly with the Minister for Transport. I am delighted that steps are now being made to increase this service for the growing community in Blessington," added Deputy Whitmore.

Deirdre McCormack, Social Democrats Local Area Rep for West Wicklow, also welcomed

the timely announcement: "This is very positive and encouraging news for our community here in Blessington. Anyone who travels on the 65 bus regularly knows that our local bus service has been at capacity for several years now. With schools and colleges returning over the next few weeks the additional buses and the new 65A bus route are very welcome and will help improve the service."

From Monday August 26th an additional four services a day will be added to the 65 bus timetable and a new 65A bus route will be introduced. The 65A bus route will operate Monday to Friday between Blessington and The Square shopping centre in Tallaght with two departures from Blessington at 10:30am and 12pm and one departure from Tallaght at 11:15am.

"These additions to Dublin Bus public transport services for

Blessington and the surrounding areas are positive steps towards making public transport a viable and accessible option for the communities here. I will continue to work with the local community, public transport providers and the NTA to ensure that more public transport options are developed and introduced for the growing population here in West Wicklow," concluded Deputy Whitmore.



Cathaoirleach Tom Fortune and Anne Ivory from Greystones Cancer Support group launching the Picnic In The Park Festival which took place in Burnaby Park on Saturday earlier this month. All proceeds from the event went to the Greystones Cancer support group. Speaking at the launch Cllr Fortune thanked Greystones cancer support for the great work that they do. "They offer so much; counselling, transport to treatment sessions, they operate a buddy system, a place to meet, they facilitate yoga, meet ups. The most important thing is that they are there," he said. Cllr Fortune wished them well with their work and asked the community to help in any way they can.



Deirdre McCormack and Jennifer Whitmore TD in Blessington.

VULTURE FUNDS VANQUISHED

Continued from page 1

decision to support the elected Councillors of Wicklow in their policy of preventing vulture funds buying entire blocks of apartments is a massive boost for local democracy.

"Although Government Ministers and the Planning Regulator attempted to frustrate us in making this historic decision, we, the Councillors in the last Council, held our nerve and now, as a result, Developers must sell new apartments to individual buyers only and cannot do deals to sell them to investment funds.

"This is an historic moment for Wicklow County Council and for the huge number of first-time buyers in our county as it means that the practice of allowing huge investment funds to buy new

apartments in bulk has been stopped.

"It is highly significant that this policy, adopted by the elected Councillors, was challenged by the applicant for permission to develop 178 apartments at the old Dell site in Bray. It is also clear

that the Planning Inspector agreed with the applicant and intended to frustrate the democratic will of the elected Councillors of Wicklow County Council. However, in a nationally significant decision, the Board of An Bord Pleanála upheld the original policy of the Councillors and insisted that the apartments must be sold to individual purchasers.

"The one concern I have in relation to this historic decision is that the applicant can come back to the Council if after 2 years the units fail to be sold. However, I am confident

that with this condition relating to single purchasers now in place, there will be no shortage of individual buyers for these and other apartments built in the future.

"I now expect the Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council to implement fully, enthusiastically and consistently this policy of the elected Councillors of Wicklow County Council. There can be no deviation from the will of the Councillors on this one.

"I further expect the Government, including our Taoiseach and Minister for Health and our TDs who represent the people of County Wicklow in Dáil Éireann, to move immediately to ensure that every Council in the country follows our example and give some hope to the hundreds of thousands of our people who currently can't afford to buy their first home."

weee
ireland
APPROVED RECYCLING SCHEME

FREE ELECTRICAL
RECYCLING DAY

BLESSINGTON

Sat 31st Aug 2024

10am - 4pm

McGreal's Primary Care Centre,
Blessington,
Co. Wicklow
W91 F5X4

Any household waste electrical items, batteries or energy saving lightbulbs accepted, large or small! From Fridges to Phones, Laptops to Lawnmowers, Toys to Power Tools, and everything in-between. **WEEE recycle anything with a plug or battery!** Electrical, battery and lighting waste can also be recycled at your local authority recycling centres and electrical retailers, visit weeeireland.ie

In Partnership with



Comhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin
Wicklow County Council



Consultation process extended for 5m Community Fund

SSE Airtricity has extended the consultation process for its €5 million all-island Community Fund until 23rd August. The fund aims to deliver meaningful community benefits across the island of Ireland. The consultation process is inviting views from communities, individuals and organisations from towns, villages, inner cities, and rural heartlands, to advise how the fund could best support green initiatives throughout our communities.

The SSE Airtricity Generation Green Community fund is part of SSE Airtricity's commitment to customers and the communities it serves by supporting them on the path to net zero through education, awareness raising, as well as grant funding and energy efficiency supports.

Klair Neenan, Managing Director of SSE Airtricity, said: "Getting to net zero is in everyone's interest and local communities will be at the heart of the energy transition. We know there are passionate people and groups working hard across Ireland and we want to help them make a positive difference by powering up their sustainability plans. But

funding can often be an issue. That's why we're delighted to launch our unique Generation Green Community Fund.

"We know issues like biodiversity, education and decarbonisation are big priorities but to ensure the funding makes the biggest difference we want to hear from local communities directly. That's why we're launching this initial consultation, and we look forward to hearing from communities and individuals, to inform how the fund should be used."

As part of the consultation process, SSE Airtricity is inviting local communities and individuals to shape what the priorities

for the fund should be. This will ensure the fund focuses on what is most important to communities. Examples of priorities may include green energy upgrades for community buildings, community biodiversity projects or green skills workshops and education.

The SSE Airtricity Generation Green Community Fund will be administered in line with a number of UN Sustainable Development Goals, aligning with SSE Airtricity's core sustainability priorities around community, biodiversity, education and decarbonisation.

The company has a long-standing commitment of supporting its



SSE Airtricity has launched a €5 million all-island Community Fund today, with the aim of delivering meaningful community benefits across the country. The company plans to undertake a consultation process, inviting views from communities, individuals and organisations from towns, villages, the inner city, and rural heartlands. Pictured at the launch was: Klair Neenan, Managing Director of SSE Airtricity, and Deirdre Smith, Head Of Corporate Affairs at SSE Airtricity.

customers and community help its customers. groups. In response to the global energy crisis in 2022 and 2023, SSE Airtricity established a €25 million customer support fund to

The SSE Airtricity Generation Green Community Fund will be open to application later this year, following the initial consul-

tation period.

To submit your views to the consultation or for more information, please visit: www.sseairtricity.com/communityfund

Registrations are now open for the Big Beach Clean 2024

The Big Beach Clean 2024 is back and Clean Coasts are asking people to register to join the campaign. From September 20th to 22nd, volunteers across the country will gather to clean our beautiful beaches and contribute to a global effort to combat marine litter.

In 2023, over 400 groups registered to host a clean-up, with 7,700 Clean Coasts volunteers

removing a staggering 46 tonnes of litter all across the country. After signing up, participants will

receive everything they need to conduct a successful beach clean and carry out a marine litter survey,

by filling in the Marine Litter Data Cards or using the Clean Swell App. As part of the Ocean

Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup, individual and group efforts in Ireland will have far-reaching effects, contributing to global data and influencing environmental policies worldwide.

By participating in the Big Beach Clean and submitting the information on the types and quantities of litter you collect, participants will help make Ireland's voice heard on a global scale. The data collected by volunteers in previous years have informed national

campaigns such as "Bin the Butt" and "Break Up With Plastic".

On a global level, this data, when shared with Ocean Conservancy, has driven significant policy changes worldwide, including banning of certain plastic items like bags and straws or the implementation of laws to prohibit smoking on beaches.

Bronagh Moore, An Taisce's Clean Coasts Manager commented "We are delighted to announce that registrations for the Big Beach Clean 2024 are now open. Every piece of litter removed and reported not only contributes to cleaner beaches but can lead to impactful cam-



paigns and healthier oceans. It's a powerful reminder of how local actions can lead to significant global impacts. Join us in making a difference."



Marrakesh Ltd is a family run business specialising in Construction and Demolition Waste Management & Recycling, Site Clearance and Supply of Material from 4" down to Blinding, Recycled Screened Soil, Sand, Gravel etc.

EPA LICENCED FACILITY • ALL TRUCKS CARRY WASTE PERMITS

Recycled:

- Screened Soil
- Screened no 2 soil
- 4" Down Crushed Concrete
- 4" Clean Crushed Concrete
- 3" Down Crushed Concrete
- 3" Clean Crushed Concrete
- Crushed Concrete Fines
- Crushed Tarmac Fines
- No 2 Stone

Also available:

- Granite • Pebble • Sand

Tel: 01 286 8119 Mobile: 087 664 1866

www.marrakeshltd.com



We also accept for recycling: • Clay • Stone • Concrete • Tarmac • Sand



We can organise SITE CLEARANCES - no job too big or small





Members of Wicklow & District Lions Club with some Ukrainian friends took part in the National Beach Clean Day recently. The volunteers collected litter and general rubbish from the beaches and surrounding areas in Wicklow. The previous week the volunteers together with friends from the Grand Hotel spent an evening cleaning and weeding the very popular scenic carpark also in Wicklow which was totally out of control. But now it is spic and span and ready for the hundreds of visitors visiting the carpark weekly and coinciding with the Wicklow Regatta. Lions work is carried out under the guidance of the local Tidy Town. Both charity groups work together on a regular basis.



SERIOUSLY?

You were going to *miss out* on the
BIFE Open Day on Monday 26th?
Don't be crazy. Get your butt
down to BIFE and let them
help sort out your future!

BIFE OPEN DAY
Mon 26th Aug, 10am-3pm

**BUS
PICK-UPS**
Throughout the
college year from
Gorey, Arklow,
Wicklow and
Rathnew

bife **BRAY INSTITUTE OF FURTHER EDUCATION**
Dedicated • Professional • Passionate

ART

- KF** Art, Craft & Design level 4)
- KA** Art Portfolio Preparation
- KB** Art, Craft & Design (Level 5)
- KC** Fine Art Practice
- KE** Creative Craft

DESIGN

- DA** Graphic Design
- DD** Architecture Design & Technology
- DN** Jewellery Making & Woodcraft
- DI** Furniture Design & Carpentry/Joinery
- DC** Fashion & Textiles
- DK** Garden Design
- DJ** Furniture Design & Cabinet Making (Advanced)

MUSIC

- MI** DJ Techniques & Music Production
- MJ** Music Production
- MK** Music Performance
- MF** Sound Engineering
- MN** Traditional Irish and Folk Music Performance

COMPUTING & ENGINEERING

- NA** Computer Software Development
- NB** Computer Science
- NC** Computer Networks and Cyber Security
- ND** Computer A+ Operating Systems
- NE** Digital Arts & Creative Media
- NF** 21st Century Skills for Work
- HV** Engineering Pre-University

SPORT

- EA** Sport, Exercise & Fitness Instruction
- EC** Personal Trainer, Strength & Conditioning
- ED** Soccer Coaching & Sports Management
- EF** Sports Injury & Massage Therapy / Pre-University Physiotherapy

ANIMAL CARE

- HA** Animal Care
- HI** Animal Care & Management Pre-University
- HJ** Animal Science Industry
- HT** Dog Obedience & Training - Start Your Own Business
- HX** Equine Studies

SOCIAL STUDIES & CHILDCARE

- OA** Special Needs Assistant (Primary & Post-Primary)
- OB** SNA & Disability Studies (Level 6)
- HD** Early Learning & Care / Childcare
- HF** Supervision in Early Learning & Care / Childcare
- HE** Social Studies & Community Care

HAIR, BEAUTY & WELLNESS

- HG** Holistic & Wellbeing Studies
- FJ** Professional Make Up & Hairstyling
- FF** Hairdressing - Junior Stylist
- FG** Hairdressing - Senior Stylist
- FH** Barbering
- FD** Nail Technician & Salon Administration
- FC** Fashion Theatre and Media Make-Up

SCIENCE

- HS** Forensic Science - Pre-University
- HK** Science - Pre-University
- HZ** Food Science with Dietetics - Pre-University
- JF** Pharmacy Assistant
- JJ** Pharmacy Technician
- HU** Applied Ecology and Biodiversity Studies
- LJ** Brewing and Distilling Technology

BUSINESS

- JA** Business Management & Administration
- JB** E Business
- JC** Business Management - Advanced Certificate
- JD** Accounting Technician
- LD** Business Tourism Advanced Certificate
- SD** Legal Administration Pre-University Law
- SF** Medical Administration (Mornings Only)
- SE** IT & Office Administration (Mornings Only)
- JT** Digital Marketing and Entrepreneurship
- EE** Security & Pre-Garda

HOSPITALITY & TOURISM

- LA** Tourism, Reception & Event Management
- LB** Tourism with Airline Studies
- LH** Restaurant & Bar Management
- LC** Culinary Arts
- LE** Culinary Arts Advanced
- LG** Pastry, Baking & Barista
- LI** Hospitality & Business Management (Level 6)

ADULT LEAVING CERT

- RB** Adult Leaving Certificate

HEALTH

- HB** Nursing and Midwifery Studies - Pre-University
- HH** Healthcare Assistant & Activity Coordinator
- HP** Occupational Therapy Assistant
- JK** Emergency Care Studies (Pre-paramedic, Fire & Ambulance)
- HL** Applied Psychology
- HW** Applied Psychology (Advanced)

FILM & COMPUTER GAMING

- MA** TV & Film Production
- MB** TV & Film Production - Advanced
- MC** Immersive Media Production Degree (Hons)
- ME** 3D Game Design
- MG** Games Development

ACTING & DANCE

- PA** Acting for Theatre & Film
- PB** Acting for Stage & Screen Advanced
- PD** Dance Technique, Performance and Choreography
- PE** Dance Technique, Performance and Choreography - Advanced

ENGLISH LANGUAGE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- AA** English Language and Computers for International Students
- AB** English Language and Business for International Students
- AC** English Language and Healthcare Studies for International Students
- AD** English Language and Sport for International Students
- AE** English Language for Employment (level 4)

APPRENTICESHIPS

- JG** Accounting Technician Apprenticeship

PART-TIME COURSES

- ZE** Holistic & Wellbeing Studies
- ZA** Woodcrafts (Level 4)
- ZB** ICDL (level 4)
- ZC** Computers for beginners (Level 3)
- ZD** IPO medical Computer Assistant (Level 5)

NO FEES All Tuition, Exam & Course Material
Fees are abolished. (flat registration fee will apply)

www.bife.ie

01 2829668
bifeenquiries@wicklowvec.ie



Brady unanimously elected as Sinn Féin general election candidate

Sinn Féin TD John was unanimously selected last night to contest the next general election for Sinn Féin in the Wicklow constituency. The large attendance at the convention evidenced the hunger and enthusiasm of Sinn Féin members and supporters for the upcoming election.

John previously served as a Councillor, both on Bray Town Council, and on Wicklow County Council. He was first elected in 2004 and was first elected as a TD in 2016.

Following the convention Deputy Brady said: "I am very humbled and honoured to accept my party's nomination to contest the next general election. There is no greater honour for me than to represent the people of Wicklow. And to be asked to put myself

forward for election again is both humbling and inspiring.

"I was first elected to Bray Town Council twenty years ago this year in 2004. In the years since, we have witnessed a lot of change, with crises and challenges emerging that we could never have envisaged back then. My motivation then, and now, and at all times has been to serve my community, the people of Wicklow.

"Housing is the num-

ber one issue affecting people across the state, and here in Wicklow we face the highest house prices and rent prices in the state outside of Dublin. A whole generation has been locked out of home ownership. My party is committed to resolving this crisis. We have just launched our 'Affordable Homes Plan', which will bring home ownership back into reach for working people. It will also deliver affordable homes to rent.

"Our public transport system here in Wicklow has been grossly neglected by this government, the lack of ambition displayed towards our county in the Strategic Rail Review, which plans to spend €37 billion across the state, but states that the solutions required to put in place a first-class rail service in Wicklow are in the words of the report "unlikely to be justifiable.

"This coupled with badly needed road

upgrades being prevented by a Green Party Ministered driven by ideological motivations to punish road users clearly illustrates contempt for commuters in Wicklow. We need to see upgrades to the N81, and the N11. We need to see an extension of the LUAS and DART services in the county. We also need to see increased capacity and frequency on the main Rail service. The current situation from Wicklow Town up, where commuters struggle for access to the train in the morning where there is standing room only needs to end.

"Across Wicklow communities are struggling with basic services, and this is nowhere more evident than in the health service. The lack of access to Dental and GP services is chronic. Many people cannot get registered with a GP, and in many instances those that are, are forced to wait several weeks for an appointment. The failure of the government and the department of Education to plan for the population growth in the county has led to an annual fear fest for pupils and their families, who often have to wait months to confirm acceptance in a sec-



John Brady with his wife Gayle.



John Brady TD with supporters.

Fine Gael selects candidate for new Dail constituency

Businessman Brian Brennan has been selected by Fine Gael to represent the party in the Dublin Wicklow-Wexford constituency in the General Election. Party members selected Brian Brennan in a convention held in the Ashtown Park Hotel, Gorey, which was chaired by Deputy John Paul Phelan.

Mr Brennan was the first candidate selected for the new three seater Dail constituency. Fine Gael have now chosen 21 General Election candidates in thirteen constituencies.

Brian Brennan is a Gorey-based businessman and hotelier. Brian previously owned and ran the Brennan

Hotel Group which included the Arklow Bay Hotel. Brian has founded and supports 6 orphanages in Sri Lanka. He is heavily involved through his family in local sports in Arklow and Gorey including: Arklow Rocks Parnells, Arklow Geraldines Ballymoney, Arklow Rugby and Naomh Eanna GAA, Gorey Rangers Football and Gorey RFC. Brian previously was a title sponsor of the Wicklow GAA Senior, U21 and Minor Teams.

Brian Brennan said, "I am deeply honoured to be selected as a candidate for the new Wexford-Wicklow constituency. Living in Gorey and

having spent most of my working life in Arklow, I bring a wealth of experience and dedication to this role. My deep involvement in the community extends to close associations with GAA, Soccer, and Rugby clubs in both Wicklow and North Wexford, including sponsoring the Wicklow Senior Football and Hurling teams.

"In the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami, I travelled to Sri Lanka, raising over two million euros to build six orphanages and a training college, which continue to operate to this day. Currently, I have business involvements in Sri Lanka and run a hospitality consultancy in Ireland.

"I am passionate about representing this new constituency in Dail Eireann, giving North Wexford and South Wicklow a much-needed voice. Since 2020, Gorey has had no representative in Dail Eireann, and Arklow has never had a TD in the history of the state. I aim to change that."



Sharon Kelly, Ayda Kelly, Demi Mitchell, Jacdo Kelly, Lily Mitchell, Jessica Mitchell and Jordan Cawley pictured at the Fun Day in Kenmare Heights, Greystones. Pic: John McGowan.

BLACKROCK FURTHER EDUCATION INSTITUTE

3 out of 4 BFEI graduates who applied to CAO got offers in 2023

Pre-University courses in:

BUSINESS, LAW
COMMUNITY, EMERGENCY
HEALTH CARE, PSYCHOLOGY

COMPUTING, NETWORKS
WEB DIGITAL & GAME DESIGN

INTERIOR, LANDSCAPE
PRODUCT & GRAPHIC DESIGN

Courses in:

BEAUTY & HOLISTIC THERAPY,
MAKE-UP ARTISTRY



APPLY FOR FREE

ONLINE:

www.bfei.ie

Tel:

01 288 9717

Email:

office@bfei.ie



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



An Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais,
Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta
Department of Further and Higher Education,
Research, Innovation and Science



Co-Funded by
THE EUROPEAN UNION

SOLAS
learning works

ddletb

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúnaíochta
Dublin and Dún Laoghaire
Átha Cliath agus Dhún Laoghaire
Education and Training Board





Daryl Carey, Karen McDonald, Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Anne-Marie McMorro and Deirdre Lally.

Significant milestone reached in bringing old Bray courthouse back into use

A small team with a big vision secures caretakers agreement

Back in December of 2021 a group of local women made a submission to Bray Municipal District. It started with a concern, which developed into an idea and finally a plan of action. Simply to get the Old Court House on the Boghall Road back into Community use.

Since then, Karen McDonald, Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Daryl Carey, Deirdre Lally, Emma Lally, Anne-Marie McMorro and Jolene O'Connor, who make up this small team have been working constantly to get that plan of action completed. What seemed like a simple idea has in fact been many months and years of hard work.

They have lobbied and succeed in getting the building transferred into the ownership of Wicklow County Council. They have supported the Council in their application for Community Recognition Funding which was

successful and has seen thousand of euros spent bringing the structural integrity of the building up the scratch. They have worked in partnership with the Board of Ballywaltrim Community Centre to get their support to progress their plans.

Now they have secured agreement with Bray Municipal District to enter into a Caretaker's Agreement on the building, a major milestone in the plan.

The Caretakers Agreement will allow the committee to move to the next stage, informal public consultation. The com-

mittee want to gather the ideas, thoughts and any possible concerns of those living beside and in the surrounding area. It is hoped that the community facility will be focused on adults and older members of the community, as well as families and may have the option to provide outreach services to the area from the likes of Citizens Information, Bray Area Partnership and MABS among others.

The next phase is to complete the legal requirements and then go out to the public, which they hope will take place in mid-

September. The Committee acknowledged the huge support they have received from the staff of Bray Municipal District and the Board members of Ballywaltrim Community Centre. This is a grass roots, community led project and the support of these organisation has been crucial to reaching this point.

It's an exciting time for the committee and the community and they look forward to updating everyone soon. For further details please check out their Facebook page at 'Old Court House Proposal Team'.

€700k in funding for Wicklow Community Projects

€16.5 million is being divided around the country to deliver community projects under the 2024 Community Recognition Fund, with €694,300 going to Co. Wicklow to deliver seven local community projects in first phase of funding.

The major investment will support a diverse range of projects such as upgrades to sports facilities, community centres, parks, walking trails and playgrounds. As part of the initiative, funding is provided to support the purchase of buildings and vehicles for community use.

The projects being funded in Wicklow are:

- Carnew, Old Coolatin County Club, CLG and Wicklow County Council, Carnew Community Land Development- €150,000.
- Dunlavin GAA Club, Development of Multi-use Games Area - €144,000.
- Dunlavin, Imaal Hall Committee, Facilities Upgrade - €60,800.
- Newtown GAA: Development of

a Walkway - €100,000.

- Arklow Town Team: Upgrade to St Peter's Place Playground - €135,000.
- Bray Area Partnership: Purchase of a new vehicle - €50,000.
- Rathdrum Playground Committee, Park Placemaking Project - €54,500.

The Community Recognition Fund 2024 aims to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities for the entire community, in recognition of the contribution being made by com-

munities across the country in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries.

The Fund, administered by the Department of Rural and Community Development, follows an extensive consultation process with local authorities who submitted their individual list of projects for approval.

In welcoming the announcement, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr. Paul O'Brien stated: "This funding will make a huge dif-

ference to the local communities, who are continuously striving to develop their local amenities in the County. Thanks to Minister Humphreys and the Department of Rural and Community Development officials for their continued support for Wicklow."

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Emer O'Gorman, added that: "This exceptional investment will further fund the communities that have enthusiastically supported the new arrivals into their local area. Through this

fund, they can develop and enhance some of the fantastic facilities in our communities so more and more people can access and enjoy them."

The Department of Rural and Community Development has published the full details of the scheme (including funding allocations). For further information please see gov.ie.

Wicklow County Council wishes to thank the public for their interest in this scheme and advise that there will be a further call for the next phase applications in late 2024.

Success of ex-library book sale benefits Bray Women's Refuge

The recent ex-library stock book sale at Ballywaltrim Library was an overwhelming success, drawing book lovers from across the community who had the chance to rummage through and buy a diverse array of books. The sale, held on a rainy Saturday, saw a great crowd eagerly searching for bargains among the vast collection of ex-library stock.

From Irish history and biography to gardening, cookery, and fiction, there was something for everyone. The highlight, however, was the sense of community and purpose, as with every book sold, attendees knew they were contributing to a cause that directly impacts the lives of women and children in need. In total, €950 was raised for the Bray Women's Refuge.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr. Paul O'Brien was impressed with the community spirit, stating, "The community's generous support and participation in the book sale shows the importance initiatives like this. By coming together, you have taken part in the circular economy, helping these library books get another chance on someone else's shelf and also enriched the lives of those in our community who need it the most."

Reflecting on the event, Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council shared her thoughts, "The generosity of our community was truly heart-warming. Understanding the immense value of raising funds for a great cause, many people donated books and chose not to take their change at the sale, demonstrating their genuine commitment to the spirit of the day."

Speaking at the handover of the

cheque, Director of Services, Theresa O'Brien emphasised the work and support offered by the refuge, "The Bray Women's Refuge provides a critical lifeline for women and their families escaping domestic violence, we are delighted to be in a position to offer support."

Manager of the Bray Women's Refuge Anne Marie decided that since the funds came about as a result of a book sale, they would support the establishment of a dedicated collection of books for both children and teens at the refuge. She noted, "This initiative is particularly significant as it addresses the educational and emotional needs of babies, children, and young people staying at the refuge."

Margaret Birchall, County Librarian, thanked everyone involved, including staff who worked on that Saturday and everyone who participated, donated, and volunteered. The contributions have made a significant difference, proving once again that our community is stronger together.

Looking ahead, there are plans to make the book sale an annual event, continually supporting the Bray Women's Refuge and other local causes. This ongoing effort will ensure a steady supply of resources for the refuge's new library, fostering a love of reading and learning among its youngest residents.



Pictured at the presentation of the proceeds of the book sale from L-R were: Colin Heslin (Executive Librarian, Wicklow County Council), Deirdre Flannery (Branch Librarian, Ballywaltrim Library), Margaret Birchall (County Librarian, Wicklow County Council), Anne Marie (Manager, Bray Women's Refuge), Theresa O'Brien (Director of Services, Wicklow County Council) and Clodagh Bourke (Senior Library Assistant, Ballywaltrim Library).

SALLYNOGGIN COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION SALLYNOGGIN | DÚN LAOGHAIRE | CO. DUBLIN

Courses Commence Sept 2024
Apply online www.scfe.ie



- Art
- Fashion
- Floristry
- Performing Arts
- Sports and Fitness
- Social Studies
- Travel and Tourism
- Hair and Beauty
- Early Learning and Care
- Special Needs Assisting

NO COURSE FEES

FREE PARKING

OPEN DAY
WED 28th AUG 2024
10am – 2pm All Welcome

**CERTIFICATE AND
DIPLOMA COURSES**

**NO CAO POINTS
REQUIRED**

FURTHER INFORMATION
www.scfe.ie

**All courses lead directly to employment or progression to
degree courses in Universities and Higher Education Institutes**

All courses recognised for SUSI grant

**Funding available for Social Welfare recipients
and exemptions for Medical Card holders**



**LEARN
ACHIEVE
SUCCEED**

ddletb
Board of Directors: Lynn O'Sullivan, Dún Laoghaire
Altaí Clárú agus Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board



COLÁISTE BREISOIDEACHAIS
AN NAIGÍN
SCFE
SALLYNOGGIN COLLEGE
OF FURTHER EDUCATION

SALLYNOGGIN | DÚN LAOGHAIRE | CO. DUBLIN

Your next step: All you need to know about Further Education options in SCFE

Are you ready to take the next step in your educational journey? A one-year QQI Level 5 course in Sallinoggin College of Further Education will open the door for progression to a Degree course in Higher Education or prepare you for working in your preferred area. Applications for our fully funded courses commencing in September 2024 are now open.

"At SCFE, we take pride in being recognised as a beacon of excellence in Further Education. Our commitment to fostering diverse talents, supporting students and providing exceptional courses has earned us an excellent reputation."

Easy Access from Wicklow

"Located just a stone's throw away from Dun Laoghaire, our college is easily accessible by various modes of transport. SCFE is a short walk or bus journey from Glenageary and Dun Laoghaire train stations. The 45A bus from Bray drops you less than a 5-minute walk from SCFE. We also have a large free carpark available to students."

A Diverse Range of Courses to Choose From

"Our course offerings span a wide spectrum of interests and career paths, providing opportunities to school leavers and mature students, ensuring that you find your perfect fit. From Art, Early Learning and Care with Montessori, Special Needs Assisting, Performing Arts, Criminology, Psychology and Social Studies, Yoga

and Pilates Teacher Training to Fitness, Fashion, Floristry and more, check out our website www.scfe.ie to find a course that resonates with you."

Pathways to Success

"Many of our students successfully transition directly into the workforce, armed with the practical skills and knowledge acquired during their time at SCFE. Others choose to continue their educational journey, utilising the qualifications gained in SCFE to access Higher Education both within Ireland and abroad. Studying at QQI Levels 5 and 6 at SCFE can open doors to exciting opportunities, providing you with a strong foundation for your future endeavours."

International Learning with Erasmus+

"As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, international experience holds immense value. SCFE places great emphasis on work experience and has harnessed the potential of the Erasmus+ program to enhance learning opportunities for all.

"For instance, our Early Childhood

Care and Education students have the chance to undertake work experience in Norwegian early years education services through our partnership with KVT College in Trondheim, Norway. This opportunity allows them to gain expertise in a field where Norway is a recognized leader.

"Our Buying, Styling and Visual Merchandising Students spend three weeks working in Tenerife at the world-famous Santa Cruz de Tenerife Carnival."

Open Day - August 28th

"Curious to learn more about what SCFE has to offer? Our Open Day on August 28th from 10am to 2pm gives you an opportunity to visit the college and speak with course coordinators about your options.

"All our courses are recognized for the SUSI Grant and learners with a disability or a special education need may apply for supports through the Fund for Learners with Disabilities (FSD).

Your journey towards a brighter future begins with Sallinoggin College of Further Education. Apply online at www.scfe.ie or contact Reception@scfe.ie Tel: 01 285 2997."



11 Wicklow schools added to Hot Meals programme

The Government has announced that an additional 170 Primary Schools have been approved for the Hot School Meals Programme. An additional 11 primary schools in County Wicklow are set to benefit. The School Meals was launched as a pilot 5 years ago and has seen huge demand ever since. The expansion means that hundreds of thousands of children can now receive a nutritious, hot meal during their school day.

Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly TD, said: "When this government took office, there were just 30 schools receiving Hot Meals. That number has increased considerably and this announcement brings that number to well over 2,000 Primary Schools who are able to benefit.

"As a Government, we have prioritised key cost-of-living supports. Hot school meals make a really valuable contribution to the wellbeing of hundreds of thousands of children across Ireland. This announcement is good news for parents and the school children who will enjoy these meals."

The 11 Wicklow schools are: Scoil Mhuire na Aird, Shillelagh; St Laurence O'Toole's National School, Roundwood; Gaelscoil Chill Mhantain, Rathnew; St Joseph's National School, Arklow; Scoil Padraig Naofa (St Pat's), Bray; St Saviours National School, Rathdrum; Scoil Chualann, Bray;

Scoil Naomh Iosaf, Baltinglass; Brittas Bay National School; St Mary's National School, Barndarrig; Powerscourt National School.

Minister Donnelly said: "I am delighted to see so many Wicklow schools taking availing of this scheme."

The objective of the School Meals Programme is to provide regular, nutritious food to children to support them in taking full advantage of the education provided to them. The Hot School Meals pro-

gramme was introduced in 2019 and has grown significantly from a small pilot of 30 schools.

An Taoiseach Simon Harris stated: "As Taoiseach and as a TD for Wicklow I am determined to expand to Programme to all schools nationwide. Hot School meals play a huge role in saving parents valuable time and money. This programme, spear headed by my colleague, Fine Gael Minister Heather Humphreys has been an instrumental policy of this Government. Across the country 168 new

Primary Schools have been approved for Hot School Meals, bringing the total to nearly 2,200. The ambition of my Government is to have all schools across the country approved. At the core of this programme is reducing the cost of education and making sure Ireland is the best country for a child to grow up in. This isn't the only way we are tackling the cost of education, we are also expanding free school books from September and reducing the cost of college fees year on year."

Great news for Greystones students seeking school places

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has welcomed the news that Greystones students without a 1st Year secondary school place have been allocated places in Greystones Community College.

"I was delighted to hear today from a parent that the final allocation of places was made today and that this resolves the crisis in secondary school places we have seen over the last number of months. This is wonderful news for these children and their families. It has been an incredibly stressful time for these families and in particular the children who should have been looking forward to starting secondary school with their friends, not worrying that they had no school to go to," commented Ms Whitmore.

"I'm very thankful to Greystones Community College (GCC) and their Principal Ruairi Farrell for accommodating these children and ensuring that they will be able to start school next week. GCC has consistently been at the forefront of providing solutions to the Department of Education throughout this school places crisis and this is another example of that approach by the school.

"However, the Department should have never let this crisis go on this long. The Department of Education were made aware of a significant shortfall of school places in October of last year, when local schools rang alarm bells about accommodation needs. I have been working with the schools and local parents to try to resolve this issue since it was first brought to my attention. But despite assurances from both the Minister for Education and the Department that all children would get a school

place in Greystones several families were left in limbo and suffered a huge amount of stress over the last few months. It is completely unacceptable that these children have only finally been offered a secondary school place one week before schools start back," added Deputy Whitmore, who is also the Social Democrats Spokesperson for Children.

"Every year there are issues with a lack of school places in Greystones and I believe that next year will also be problematic as the long-awaited new school builds, such as the GCC permanent school building, will not be ready for the 2025/26 school year. The Department needs to start planning ahead and have solutions in place so that children and families aren't put through this traumatic experience again.

"Every child deserves to go to school and the most basic thing that a government should do is provide a classroom space for each child. This government has failed to do this time and time again in Wicklow and across the country," concluded Deputy Whitmore.

Also welcoming the news, Minister Stephen Donnelly said: "I was delighted to receive confirmation from the principal of Greystones Community College, Ruairi Farrell today that the school has stepped up to ensure all children in Greystones needing a place in 1st year. This is the third time that GCC has stepped up to resolve the shortage of school places.

"This is simply not good enough that it is left to



Ruairi Farrell, Principal of Greystones Community College, and Jennifer Whitmore TD.

one school operating from temporary buildings to resolve this situation, or that it took until a week before first years are due to begin their secondary school journey for a solution to be found. I will be seeking an urgent meeting with my colleague, Minister Norma Foley, in the coming weeks to ensure this isn't repeated for the 2025/2026 school year and subsequent years.

"The Department of Education must address this situation over the coming period, and ensure we are not seeing a repeat of the stress for children, their parents and our hard-working school staff next year. Ruairi, the board of GCC and the entire school community have done the right thing for these children and their families, and I again want to acknowledge all that they are doing for education in Greystones."

College Choice - Keep your options open with BIFE

Open Day takes place Monday 26th August (10 am - 2 pm)

BIFE, as the largest College of Further & Higher Education and Training in the Southeast, has always maintained a strong relationship with local industry and has identified emerging demands in key areas nationally. They have met these ever-increasing and challenging demands from a diverse group of stakeholders by re-developing part of their institute over the past few years.

Now, the huge range of courses available at BIFE offers learners fabulous opportunities, for those not only looking for additional skills or hoping to go directly into employment but also as an alternative route to a college course in a university or institute of technology in Ireland or abroad.

Their Open Day on Monday 26th August will showcase the large variety of courses they have in the College ranging from Art & Design, Media, Sport, Psychology, Equine Studies, Science, Business, Nursing, Theatre/Dance, and much more. "We have over 70 full-time courses to choose from, all progressing on to Higher Education

Institutes in Ireland and abroad", according to Deputy Principal Gabriel Allen. "Further Education offers a learner, who may not have achieved the required CAO points, the opportunity to gain advanced entry onto honours degree programmes. Therefore, keeping your options open and applying for a BIFE course now is important.

BIFE recently launched its new BA (Hons) Degree in Immersive Media Production. This level 8 degree programme runs in conjunction with the IADT, the first two years in BIFE with the final two years being run in the IADT. This exciting new degree will encompass various forms of media

including virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR), and 360-degree video. No CAO points are required to do this degree course.

BIFE is also introducing the following new courses this September:

This year, the Institute has launched several new courses at levels 5 & 6:

- CompTIA A+ (Level 5)
- Special Needs Assistant & Disability Studies (Level 6)
- Digital Marketing & Entrepreneurship (Level 5)

"Work Experience is an important part of all our courses. All BIFE students have the opportunity to participate in our Erasmus+ programme where they can complete



Louise Fortune (Deputy Principal), Gabriel Allen (Deputy Principal), Ray Tedders (Principal), Cllr Erika Doyle (Chair of BMD), Cllr Tom Fortune (Chair of BIFE BOM), Ross Lee (Deputy Principal) with An Taoiseach Simon Harris who as Minister for Higher Education recently announced major developments at BIFE as the College has been chosen for a flagship 'FET College of the Future'.

their work experience in European countries such as Spain, Portugal, Finland, France, Italy, Germany, or Malta."

Allen assured us that mature students have

many opportunities to study and progress at BIFE. "All courses have valuable certification and offer progression routes to Higher Education, yet you don't need CAO points to

study at Bray Institute."

To discover more about the courses available at BIFE, prospective students are invited to attend their Open Day on Monday 26th August from

10 am to 2 pm.

A BIFE bus service is available every day with pick-ups in Gorey, Arklow, Wicklow Town, and Rathnew.

Apply online at

www.bife.ie or call the Institute any day during office hours at 01-2829668 for further information between 9 am and 4 pm. There is no application fee.

KING KOIL **Sealy** **ODEAREST** **REST ASSURED** **kaymed** **RESPA** **Silentnight**

Comfort
SINCE 1981
BED OUTLET

All the
LEADING BRANDS
at
OUTLET PRICES...

Deposit secures for 8 weeks
w: bedoutlet.ie

UP TO 70% OFF

Tallaght Outlet
phone: 01-4940200

Opening Times

Mon - Sat (10.00am - 5.00pm)

Sun & Bank Holidays - Closed

Unit B7, South City Business Pk, Tallaght, D24



FREE PARKING

Ballybrack Outlet
phone: 01-2720788

Opening Times

Mon - Sat (10.00am - 5.30pm) Thurs 7.30 pm

Sun - Closed (Bank Hols 2.00pm - 5.30pm)

Church Road, Ballybrack, Co. Dublin



FREE PARKING

British Ambassador makes positive strides into Wicklow equestrian world

Festina Lente was this year's Positive Strides equine charity at the RDS Dublin Horse Show, an initiative sponsored by Mannon Farm to celebrate and raise awareness of the positive impact of equestrianism on society. Introduced in recent years and growing significantly year on year, Positive Strides helps to highlight the positive impact of engaging in equestrian activities for physical and mental wellbeing.



Vaulting & Outreach Team with staff, students, ponies and patrons of Festina Lente.

Taking their well earned place at the RDS Dublin Horse Show, the biggest equestrian event on the 2024 calendar nationwide, was the 4 miniature Shetland ponies from the Festina Lente Outreach Team. Instead of visiting mental health hospitals, nursing homes, dementia centres and DEIS schools they debuted ringside throughout the week and in the Kids Zone at the back of the Grand Stand.

Also on show for Festina Lente were demonstrations from the Vaulting and Therapeutic Riding teams to highlight the physical, cognitive, psycho social and psycho educational benefits of both disciplines. All this, plus panel discus-

sions on the benefits of Equine Assisted Activities in the RDS Library.

Indeed you could find all of Festina Lente's vital work showcased at a shop stand in the RDS Hall 1 - including some fascinating forays into the world of Social and Therapeutic Horticulture. Festina Lente supports people to achieve their personal best not only in the world of horses, but also in horticulture and community.

While at Festina Lente, Mr Paul Johnson also got to enjoy a stroll through the Victorian walled garden of Festina Lente which is home to a lifeline of community allotments and terrapin ponds.



British Ambassador Mr Paul Johnston & RTE toy show appeal star Freya McLaughlin, with staff, students and patrons of Festina Lente.

Oliver Callan commemorates 15 years of homeless charity Tiglin

Tiglin recently celebrated its 15th anniversary with a special event at the Salesforce Tower, hosted by Oliver Callan. Over 150 people attended, sharing reflections on Tiglin's journey and hearing stories from those whose lives have been changed by the organisation.

Founded in 2008 by Aubrey McCarthy and Phil Thompson, Tiglin began with the purchase of the former Mount-a-neering Centre on a forestry reserve above Ashford Town, surrounded by hectares of Coillte mixed forestry, the rehabilitation centre offers a peaceful environment for recovery. Co-founder Aubrey

McCarthy shared, "Having experienced addiction within my family, we started this centre to reduce the impact of addiction on families and homelessness. It was a challenging journey, but many generous people supported us, and we are deeply grateful to them."

Building on their success, Tiglin opened a

women's centre based on the same model. In 2010, with the help of Wicklow County Council, Tiglin became an approved housing body. Today, the organisation provides supported housing for men and women in recovery, young adults, and displaced families, along with upskilling and education opportunities to help them exit

homelessness and reintegrate into society.

Oliver Callan praised Tiglin's work, saying, "We give far too much attention to the bad things about ourselves. Tiglin is a place that reminds us to focus on the goodness and good people of Dublin and Ireland. The decent men and women who have passed the Tiglin torch and spirit to the next man and the next woman - this relay rally of kindness, friendship and helping citizens in crisis towards inde-

pendence."

CEO and co-founder Phil Thompson emphasized the importance of stable housing and community support in rebuilding lives. "We realized people needed more than temporary solutions. That's why we started engaging with the homeless through our mobile café, No Buck's Café. Over the years, we became an approved housing body and collaborated with the Ministry of Education and Social Protection to offer employ-

ment programmes.

Tiglin is also at the frontline of the rough sleeping crisis through their homeless café Tiglin at the Lighthouse. Chairman Aubrey McCarthy explains, "Despite the building being too small, we continue to meet the needs of those who come to our café asking for help. In 2023, we served over 120,000 hot meals. We hope that something more suitable will soon become available."



Tiglin founders Aubrey McCarthy (left) and Phil Thompson (right).

A magnificence of Marilyns hits Bray Promenade

Over 100 Marilyn Monroe lookalikes paddled, posed and pouted on Bray Promenade this August Bank Holiday Sunday, 4th August to support women's cancer care in the Mater Hospital. The inaugural Marilyn's Mater Paddle event, held by The Mater Hospital Foundation, saw Ireland's largest gathering of Marilyn Monroe lookalikes come to the coastal town to take part in the unique event.

Decked out in blonde bombshell wigs, red heart-shaped glasses and retro swimsuits and dresses, guys and gals alike dressed up and joined in the Hollywood-themed fun, all while soaking up the summer atmosphere of the seaside town.

The 'magnificence' of Marilyns took to the water to the sounds of 'Diamonds are a girl's best friend' and splashed and sashayed, all in support of women from across Ireland who come to the Mater Hospital every year for world-class cancer care. The funds raised from Marilyn's Mater Paddle will go to support women's cancer care in the Mater Public Hospital. Generous support has helped fund vital projects such as a new mammogram and a state-of-the-art PET/CT scanner. Funds raised at this this new event will ensure that the Mater Hospital Foundation can continue to put funds to work in the hospital where they are needed most to support women on their cancer journey.

Post-paddle celebrations continued in The Strand Hotel, where stars and starlets enjoyed retro tunes, refreshments and picked up their exclusive goodie bag at the Marilyn Mixer after-party.

Speaking about the inaugural

Marilyn's Mater Paddle, Roisin Duffy, Director of Development w the Mater Hospital Foundation says, "We would like to say a massive thank you to each and every 'Marilyn' who joined us in Bray today for our first-ever Marilyn's Mater Paddle, which was a huge success. We had a wonderful morning of Hollywood-style fun, all for a really important cause - women's cancer care. The funds raised today will ensure that we can continue to be there for women facing difficult cancer journeys, and invest in the Mater Hospital where it is needed most."

She adds, "This event would not have been possible without the support of our Marilyns and each and every person who sponsored their efforts. I would like to extend a huge thank you to Bray County Council, as well as the RNLI, Water Safety Ireland and the Order of Malta, for their invaluable support. Our gratitude also to kind companies who provided prizes and goodies for the event."

You can support women's cancer care by donating at www.materfoundation.ie/marilyn.



Some of the magnificent Marilyns who took part in the Mater Paddle inaugural event held in Bray by the Mater Hospital Foundation.

Key contract signed for critical upgrade to wastewater infrastructure in Avoca

Uisce Eireann has announced the signing of a new construction contract that will deliver critical upgrades to the wastewater infrastructure in Avoca. This multi-million-euro investment will see the construction of a new wastewater plant in this picturesque village of the Garden County.

Working in partnership with Wicklow County Council, Uisce Eireann says it is committed to ending the 'unacceptable practice' of untreated wastewater being discharged into the Avoca River. The Avoca

Sewerage Scheme will deliver the construction of a new wastewater treatment plant which will bring a host of benefits to Avoca including significantly improving the water quality of the Avoca River; better

health and integrity of the environment and will ensure there is capacity available for future social and economic growth in the area. The new wastewater treatment plant will also enhance biodiversity at

the site through habitat creation.

Ward and Burke Construction Ltd. have been awarded the construction contract and will deliver the project on behalf of Uisce Eireann. Construction is due

to begin in the coming months and is set to be completed in 2026. Commenting on the benefits of this vital infrastructure for the community, Conor Delaney, Programme Manager at Uisce Eireann, said: "We are delighted to be progressing this significant project for the local community in Avoca. This project will end the current practice of discharging untreated wastewater into the Avoca River, thereby improving water quality and protecting marine life. The project reflects Uisce Eireann's ongoing commitment to the efficient delivery of critical infrastructure to support growth in local communities across County Wicklow as the new plant has been sized to accommodate an increase in the local population."

Mr Delaney added, "This project showcases Uisce Eireann's drive for innovation and commitment to sustainability. Constructing new reed



Aerial view of the site of proposed Avoca wastewater treatment plant.



Avoca.



Conor Delaney, Uisce Eireann.

Brady calls for implementation of measures to ensure Bray to Greystones cliff walk can reopen as a priority

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has expressed his disappointment at the continued closure of the Bray to Greystones cliff walk, which is one of the biggest tourist attractions in the county.

The walk which is 7km in length has been officially closed since 2021, as a result of the danger of landslides at the Greystones end, and rock-falls on the Bray side. Deputy Brady is calling on Minister Catherine Martin to use the authority of her office to ensure that measures are implemented to ensure that the cliff walk can be reopened pending completion of the longer term works on the walk.

Deputy Brady said:

"The Bray to Greystones cliff walk is a 7km stunning route, which provides some of the most beautiful views in the country. Its continued closure is a major blow for tourism in both Greystones and Bray. And while I acknowledge that there are plans in place to carry out works that would ensure the long-term viability of the cliff walk, including plans to purchase additional lands on the Greystones end which would allow

walkers to avoid the most dangerous parts, the question must be asked if there is potential for interim works to be carried out that would allow the walk to reopen while longer term solutions are being put in place.

"The County Council have carried out a tendering process on the Bray side to address the issue of rock falls. The successful contractor will be appointed in the coming weeks with work commencing

soon after.

"On the Greystones side a compulsory purchase order (CPO) of land has been introduced, which will allow the walkway to be moved from the area where the landslide took place. The importance of the cliff walk to the north Wicklow area demands that there be a multi-agency response committed to finding an interim solution to allow the walk to be fully reopened pending completion of works that will provide a permanent solution.

"I have written to the Minister for Tourism Catherine Martin stressing the importance of the cliff walk to the Greystones and Bray areas, and the need for the necessary work to be carried out as soon as possible, to allow the cliff walk to be reopened as soon as it is possible to do so. The walkway is a valued tourist attraction, and as a route through sites of natural beauty enjoyed by local people."



John Brady TD at the Bray to Greystones Cliff Walk.

Did you know that you can

READ WICKLOW TIMES ON LINE

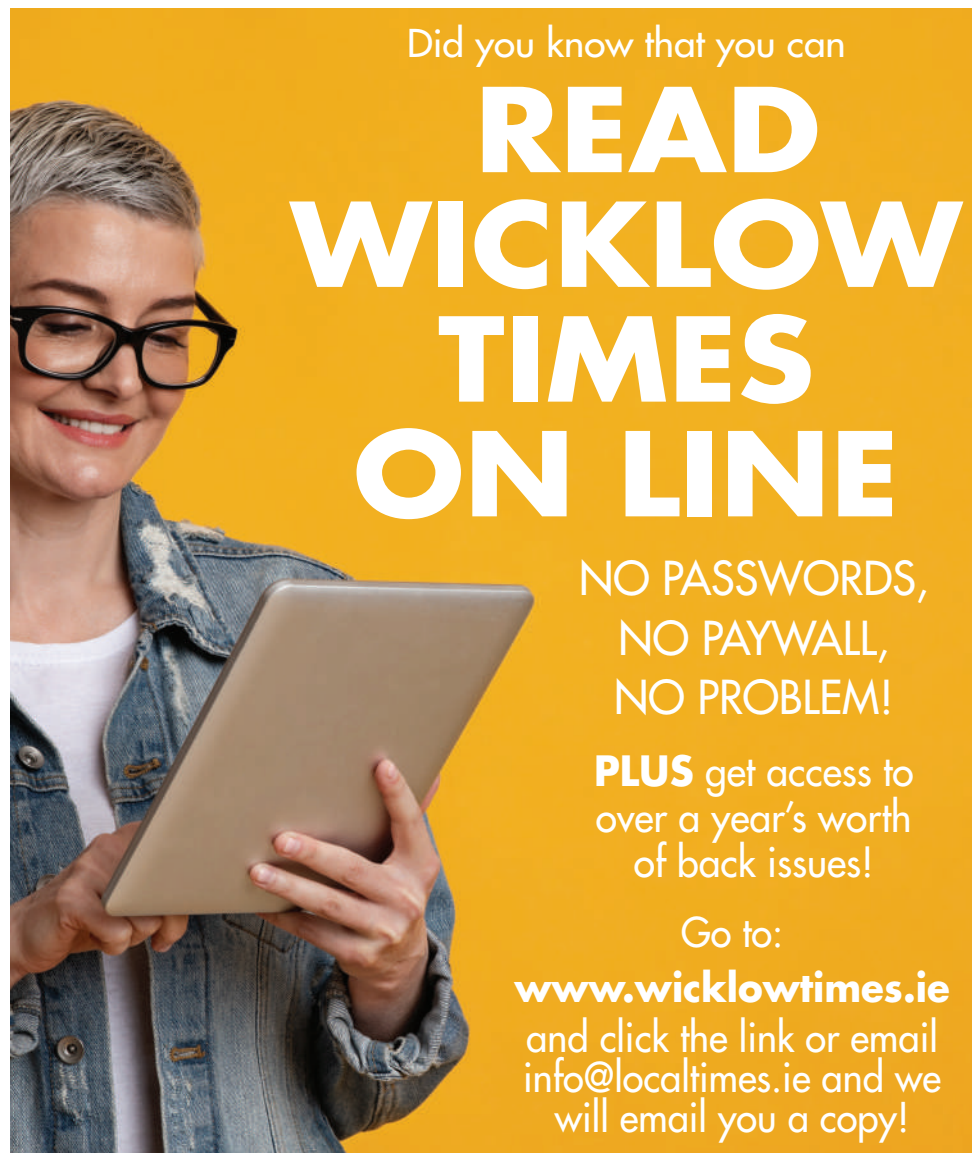
NO PASSWORDS,
NO PAYWALL,
NO PROBLEM!

PLUS get access to
over a year's worth
of back issues!

Go to:

www.wicklowtimes.ie

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





Cllr Lourda Scott on site.

‘Redevelopment of Charlesland athletics track a great asset to area’

The refurbishment of Charlesland Athletics track is finally underway this summer after originally being awarded funding in 2020 from the Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Funding grant. The funding was topped up in 2023 bringing the total allocation to €436,032.

Visiting the site recently Greystones Councillor Lourda Scott welcomed the investment.

“It’s great to see the work has finally started on the track in Charlesland. The upgrade was badly needed and the people who use the track regularly have been waiting for this to be completed for the last number of years. We are very lucky to have the only Athletics track in Co Wicklow on our doorstep. Investments in Sports facilities like these are hugely important for the community. Especially, after the excitement of the Olympics, where our field and

track athletes did so incredibly well, narrowly missing out of medals. We will have so many young people inspired to start running by the likes of Rhasidat Adeleke and our very own five time Olympian Fionnula McCormack. I hope that once our brand new track is reopened, that we can capitalise on the Olympic spirit and I will be looking to maximise its use by the public, clubs and schools as much as possible.”

Cllr Scott has been a long-time advocate for increasing sports facilities in the area, working with Newcastle FC to secure pitches and also getting an audit done on

the leisure facilities needed for the area.

“I have also asked the Council to look at improvements to the upper field in Shoreline, behind the tennis courts. This has great potential to add to the area, but badly needs drainage and general maintenance. I am delighted to say that following my representations funding has been set aside to do some improvement works. I will be working with the Council to make sure that this and the completion of the track is completed quickly and that people have a place to train coming into the darker evenings.”

Blessington GAA Club awarded under Support for Sport initiative

Blessington GAA Club has been chosen winners of the Wicklow County award in this year’s Texaco Support for Sport initiative. €5,000 has been presented to the Club to help improve its facilities for children and teenagers with additional needs through the provision of a sensory room.

Founded in 1909, Blessington GAA Club caters for over 900 members of all ages and backgrounds, whilst also opening up its facilities to numerous schools and groups within the wider community. The Club prides itself on having the largest female participation of any sports club in its locality, numbers that have been growing steadily since it’s LGFA foundation 30 years ago.

Now in its fourth year, the Texaco Support for Sport initiative is organised by Valero Energy (Ireland) Limited, the company that markets fuel in Ireland under the Texaco brand - sees a fund of €130,000 set aside annually for allocation in

equal amounts of €5,000 to successful applicants chosen on a county-by-county basis. Previous Wicklow winners were Roundwood & District Athletic Club (2021), Vallemount LGFA Club (2022) and Wicklow Archers Archery Club (2023).

Congratulating the winners on what he termed ‘the invaluable contribution that sports clubs make to the heart of community life in Ireland’, James Twohig, Director of Ireland Operations, Valero Energy (Ireland) Limited praised the unstinting work of club officials and volunteers, stating that “since its inception, in excess of €500,000 has

been distributed to a variety of more than 100 sports clubs under the Texaco Support for Sport initiative”.

Overseeing the judging process was Texaco Support for Sport ambassador, former Irish rugby international and well-known broadcaster, Donncha O’Callaghan. Commenting, he said, “As adjudicator, the most heartening aspect of the Texaco Support for Sport initiative is the benefit it brings to Irish sports clubs by providing rare access to funds which are not linked to the popularity, membership size or success of any given club.”

Describing the Wicklow club as ‘a most deserving recipient’, he went on to add: “Blessington

GAA is a fantastic club, steeped in history, and constantly aiming to evolve and improve. Inclusion is paramount at this club and the funds will allow the members to progress with their goals. Well done to all the coaches, players and volunteers at Blessington GAA.”

Entries for the 2025 Texaco Support for Sport initiative will open in the Autumn for all clubs, including those whose application may have been unsuccessful previously.



The presentation to Blessington GAA Club president, John Coogan (back, centre), and fellow members, was made at the Texaco Service Station in Blessington. Pictured with them were Texaco dealer, Peter Deane (back, left) and Valero Area Sales Manager, Damien Burke (back, right).

Eoghan shines in Croke

Eoghan Fitzgerald had a fantastic day representing his school St Marys SNS, and his GAA club Blessington in the GAA/INTO Cumann na mBunscol Go Games match at half time during the All-Ireland Football final between Armagh and Galway. Eoghan won the Wicklow Skills competition in the Centre of Excellence in Ballinakill in April and he was delighted when he found out he would get to play on All-Ireland final day.

There was great excitement on the morning of the match when he met up with the other participants from all over Ireland. He was made very welcome at the Barbara Ward Community Centre where he found out he would be playing for Galway.

From there he walked with the other players to Croke Park. He received his Galway kit and was delighted to change into it in one of the Croke Park dressing rooms. It made the day very special. They were treated to lunch and after that it was off to get a team photo in front of Hill 16.

Soon it was time to play on the hallowed turf of Croke Park at half time on All-Ireland Final day. He got great cheers from the Galway fans on the Hill when he scored his first point. All the players put on a great display of football. A lifetime of memories on a day never to be forgotten.

Eoghan would like to thank everyone in Blessington GAA for all their support and good wishes he got in the lead up to his big day in Croke Park.



Eoghan Fitzgerald in Croke Park.



Neville Maxwell, President of Rowing Ireland, Alex Dunne, Robert Dunne, Xena Jordan and Joe Cantillion at the Codling Wind Park Irish Beach Sprint Championships at Brittas Bay.

Increased local interest in Wicklow Town Heritage Trail

The weekly guided walk of the new Wicklow Town Heritage Trail, which takes place every Saturday morning at 11am, commencing from outside the Fáilte Ireland Office, continues to attract a significant number of visitors each week. The guided trails continue each Saturday until the 28th September.

The weekly volunteer guides have noted that there is an increased interest among the long-established local population. Many of the local population who have taken part were unaware of the depth and details of the local history and heritage of Wicklow Town.

There has also been a significant uptake in interest from newcomers to the area who have been fascinated by the history and heritage of their new local town.

The complete tour covers:

- The story of local man Robert Halpin who laid the first Trans-Atlantic cable.

- The history of the Abbey Grounds and the Franciscan Abbey.
- The story of Billy Byrne and the 1798 rising in Wicklow Town
- The massacre of over 300 mainly women and children in Melancholy Lane by Sir Charles Coote in 1641.
- The story of the Black Castle including details of some of the battles that took place over 6 centuries.
- The attempted landing by St. Patrick at Travilahawk Beach.
- The history relating to the Barrow Green, including stories of the secret burials that took place there.

During each week, the volunteer guides have noted the number of visitors reading the 8 storyboards telling some of the history of the town. The Wicklow Town Heritage Trail can also be self-guided and you can download the brochure for the trail by visiting www.wicklow-town.ie, where you can also view videos with various local actors telling the story of each key location. The actors featured on the videos are members of the local dramatic society.

For further information on the Wicklow Town Heritage Trail, visit www.wicklowtown.ie.



Group which took part in recent Heritage Trail walk.

34th annual La Touche Legacy History Seminar set for September

At a reception in Greystones Golf Club on Monday 29th July this year's Annual La Touche Legacy Seminar was launched. Chairperson of the La Touche Legacy Committee, Mr. George Jones, welcomed all.

This year's event will be the thirty fourth seminar which makes it one of the longest running conferences held in this country. Some years ago, the seminar was rebranded to include a Festival of History in association with Greystones Archaeological and Historical Society. Mr. Jones welcomed and thanked the Chairperson and Committee members from the Greystones Archaeological & Historical Society for their continued association.

He also thanked Wicklow County Council and Greystones Municipal District for their ongoing support for the weekend and welcomed members of both bodies to the launch.

He thanked the community for their support over the years and looked forward to welcoming them along on September 20th & 21st for this year's seminar.

Ms. Rosemary Raughter, Programme Co-Ordinator, outlined this year's programme under the theme "Post World War 2 Ireland". Rosemary said "once more we have managed to arrange an immense talent of Speakers for the weekend".

Some of the speakers like Felix Larkin; Professor Fearghal McGarry & Dr. Michael Kennedy will be making return visits to the seminar along with first time visitors Dr. Eleanor O'Leary from the South-East Technological University; Dr. Sarah-Anne Buckley, NUI Galway and Dr. David Jameson, Trinity College Dublin. Biography notes for each speaker are attached to this release. Mr. George Jones concluded the launch by thanking the La Touche Legacy Committee members; Programme Co-Ordinator, Rosemary Raughter and Conference Secretary, Kay Coughlan, and said he looked forward to a great attendance on September 20th & 21st in Greystones Golf Club to hear the many excellent Speakers that will be in Greystones.

Bookings are now being taken by: Kay Coughlan Greystonesmd@wiclowncoco.ie; George Jones george.anthony.jones@gmail.com.

Dr. Sarah-Anne Buckley (NUIG)

Dr. Sarah-Anne Buckley is an associate

professor in history at NUI Galway. Her interests lie in the fields of gender history, feminist history, the history of childhood and youth, and child welfare. Her research has had an impact both in traditional academic and non-traditional contexts and she has featured frequently in the media to talk about topics such as the mother and baby homes and the Tuam Oral History Project. Her publications include *The Cruelty Man: Child Welfare, the NSPCC and the State in Ireland, 1889-1956* (2013) and she is the co-author, with Professor John Breslin, of the best-selling *Old Ireland in Colour* series, of which three volumes have been published to date.

Dr. David Jameson (Trinity College Dublin)

Dr. David Jameson is a graduate of UCD and TCD and his doctorate, completed in 2013, examined Irish novelists' depictions of mixed marriage and inter-faith relationships. He was the recipient of an Irish Research Council Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship and is currently an Adjunct Teaching Fellow in Trinity College Dublin. He is the author of *The Tilson Case: church and state in 1950s Ireland*, published in 2023.

Dr. Michael Kennedy (Royal Irish Academy)

Dr. Michael Kennedy has been the executive editor of the Royal Irish Academy's Documents on Irish Foreign Policy series and head of the DIFP series since 1997. He has published widely on military and diplomatic history and on Irish foreign policy, while also broadcasting and speaking on diverse aspects of Irish history ranging from lighthouses to embassies to the history of curry houses in Dublin. Michael is a former member of the Irish Manuscripts Commission and a Research Associate of the Centre for Contemporary Irish History, Trinity College, Dublin. He is co-author of *Ireland: a voice among the nations* (2019), and *The Emergency: A visual history of the Irish Irish Defence Forces during the Second World War, 1939-1945* (2019).

Felix M. Larkin

Felix Larkin is a former public servant and historian and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. He is former academic director of the Parnell Summer School (2013-15) and of the Ivy Day Symposium (2022) and is currently Chairman of An Post Philatelic Advisory Committee. His publications include *Terror and discord: the Shemus cartoons in the Freeman's Journal, 1920-1924* (2009) and *Living with history: occasional writings* (2021), and he is the co-editor of *Periodicals and Journalism in 20th-century Ireland*, volumes 1 and 2 (2014 and 2021).

Professor Fearghal McGarry (QUB)

Professor McGarry is Professor of Modern Irish History at Queen's University Belfast and a member of the Royal Irish Academy. His recent research has focused on the revolutionary era, particularly the Easter Rising, and he has published widely on politics in independent Ireland, particularly republicanism and radical political memory. An active public historian, he is interested in historical memory, including commemoration, historical films, and museums, and was involved in a number of major commemorative projects during the recent Decade of Centenaries. His publications include *The Abbey Rebels of 1916: A Lost Revolution* (2015) and *The Rising, Ireland. Easter 1916* (2010). Most recently he has co-edited *Ireland 1922: Independence, Partition and Civil War* (2022) and *The Irish Revolution: A Global History* (2022). He is currently writing a study of inter-war Irish cultural anxieties about modernity.

Dr. Eleanor O'Leary (South-East Technological University)

Dr. Eleanor O'Leary is a Lecturer in Media and Communications at South East Technological University, Carlow Campus and was a recipient of the Royal Irish Academy Charlemont Grant in Spring 2020. Her publications include articles on youth unemployment and emigration and on the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic, and she is the author of *Youth and Popular Culture in 1950s Ireland* (2018).

Altidore Castle opens for house tours

Altidore Castle in Kilpedder has opened up for guided house tours for Heritage Week. The historic house and Heritage Week Awards 2023 finalist is open for guided house tours from August 17th to August 25th to celebrate this year's Heritage Week theme of connections, routes and networks.

Built in the 1730s by the Pearse family and probably designed by Edward Lovett Pearse, it belonged to several owners and was briefly a tuberculosis sanatorium before being bought by the Emmet family in 1944. The living heritage of Altidore Castle comes from the house but also the current family. The Emmets, exiled from Ireland after Robert Emmet's 1803 rebellion, have lived in Altidore for four generations and each tour is done by a family member.

Philip Emmet said "The guided house tour comprises several rooms filled with artefacts from both sides of the family and finishes with the Emmet gallery, a collection from the family relating to the United Irishmen, Robert and Thomas Addis Emmet. The house is very much lived in and combines being a historic house while also a family home."

Thomas Emmet, his son, said "We love opening for Heritage Week. As a member of Historic Houses of Ireland it's so important to share our built heritage with the public, and Heritage Week is an ideal opportunity to do this. We are open for two house tours a day at two o'clock and four o'clock. Tours will cost ten euros per person with a discounted rate of five euros for students and children. As tours sell out very quickly and we have limited space, booking ahead is essential."

To book tickets go to the Heritage Week website or Altidore Castle's Instagram and Facebook.



Altidore Castle.

Ukrainian artist's experience of living in Ireland explored in new solo exhibition

Explore the vibrant artistry of Olga Melnykova at her solo exhibition 'Ireland: Puzzles' hosted by Wicklow Town Library

Olga Melnykova's solo exhibition 'Ireland: Puzzles' opened in Wicklow Town Library on August 2nd and runs until August 30th. It's Olga's first solo show since the successful launch of her first solo show in Dublin, 'Puzzles of life', back in April 2023. With that exhibition, Olga tried to explain how it felt to be trying to put your life back together since fleeing the war and coming for the first time to the Emerald Isle.



Olga Melnykova and some of her artwork.



Olga Melnykova with Gabriel Murray at her exhibition in Wicklow Library.

After this successful launch, Olga has been actively working on her another artistic puzzles, focusing primarily on her perception of Ireland, that has become her second home.

The show mixes several techniques in a bid to represent that life may be full of bright colours, new perspectives and interesting opportunities, as long as you stay strong and motivated.

Olga explained: "This exhibition represents my vision and my personal experience of living in Ireland, its traditions, symbols, beautiful landscapes, but what's more important - its kind people who have helped Ukrainians a lot in those difficult times. It's a way to say thank you to Irish people for having opened their homes and hearts for us."

Speaking in Wicklow Library at Olga's exhibition, Gabriel Murray spoke of the connections in the art world between Ireland and Ukraine. Mr Murray is an Associate of the Courtauld Art Institute in London and a member of the Art History Association of Ireland.

"The United Arts Club, in Dublin in 1907, was founded by Countess Constance Gore Booth and other artists. One artist was her



Gabriel Murray speaking at Olga's exhibition launch in Wicklow Library.

future husband Count Casimir's Markievitz, a Polish-Ukrainian count, they visited his family estate near the village of Zhyvotivka in Ukraine, in 1903," he explained.

"The Ukraine Ambassador in Ireland plans to build a museum to them there, in order to create stronger links between our two countries. Casimir Makievitz paintings can be found in the club and the National Gallery of Ireland. He was the first Ukrainian artist to be exhibited here - over a hundred years ago.

"Liviv where Olga comes from is on the western border of the Ukraine, which is quite close to Poland. This part of the Ukraine used to be part of the Polish-Lithuanian commonwealth in the 16th century. So there is a considerable influence of European art in this region.

"They have a major art collection bigger than most galleries in Europe. I visited the Lviv Art Gallery, it has 62,000 artworks in its collection, including works of Ukrainian, Polish, Italian, French, German, Dutch and Flemish, Spanish, Austrian and other European artists. Olga visited this museum and I am sure it inspired her art. I also visited the Kiev Art Gallery that has 40,000 art objects. Also Odessa Art Gallery has 10,000 works [...]. Many of these works have gone into storage due to the war. The famous English art historian Waldemar Januszczak, who you will see published in the Irish Times Culture Magazine and on the BBC, went there in April 2022, during the war, and made a documentary on Liviv Art Musuem's, and the secret storage of the art works. This

museum I visited the year before.

"The Ukraine has the most extraordinary churches, full of gold ikons and murals that have been influenced by Byzantine art, that was created 5th century AD, and continued to exist until the fall of Constantinople, to the Ottoman Empire in 1453. Our most distinguished poet W.B Yeats was fascinated by Byzantine churches and gold ikons. He wrote a poem about it Sailing to Byzantium. Olga has mentioned her love of Yeats work.

"The Countess of Desart a Jewish woman that lived in Kilkenny, was involved in the rescue along with her banker father, and Baron De Hirsch. I investigated this in my book on the Countess. They donated over 300 million euros to this cause if Ukrainian emigration in the 19th century. This Anglo-Irish charitable cause is now lost to history.

"There have been many exhibitions of Ukrainian artists in Ireland in the last few years. One of the first I can find recorded was 12 October 2010 the exhibition 'Ukraine through the eyes of Irish artists, Ireland through the eyes of Ukrainian artists' was opened in Dublin. The event was organized by the Embassy of Ukraine in Ireland at the premises of the European Commission Representation in Ireland."

Speaking about Olga's work he said "Olga's work is unique. Her art combines imagery of the Ukrainian folk art with modern abstract art like Malevitch and also Picasso. It's a kind of combination of abstract with the use of traditional Byzantine ikons, and imagery like sunflowers,

which is the national symbol of the Ukraine. The beautiful patterns that she painted are based on the traditional Ukrainian clothes and fabrics; known as Reshetylvka embroidery. More recently her landscape has been influence by Ireland and the art of Paul Henry, who painted the great landscapes in the west of Ireland, around 1910.

"Olga's work is a combination of the old and the new. It's an interesting marriage, bridging two forms of art that originated in the Ukraine. One that belonged to a traditional folk culture and the other to the modern area. In this show Ireland and the Ukraine art form are connected and fused together.

"Her work here is also about puzzles, that she refers to in her catalog, that reflects the fragments of the many Ukrainian lives; that this current war has affected. These paintings reflect the impact it has had on their lives that have been torn apart by this terrible war."

Running from August 2nd to the 30th, this captivating display invites you to delve into a series of intricate paintings that weave together elements of Ireland's landscapes and cultural motifs.

Olga is popular contemporary artist, having had her solo exhibitions in Kyiv, Ukraine, participating in charity projects and creative collaborations. Her works are represented in private collections in France, Italy, Monaco and USA.

You can find out more about Olga's are on Instagram via her handle @art_studio_platon.

Lights, camera...pause

'Govt needs to step up to the mark to ensure that the Greystones media campus is completed'

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has expressed his disappointment at what he has described as a "hand washing exercise" by the Minister for Finance in relation to the Government's failure to act as a catalyst to ensure that the further development of the Greystones Media campus goes ahead.

"This is despite the fact that the Irish taxpayer remains a stakeholder in what the people of Greystones and indeed the whole of the county of

Wicklow envisaged would be an exciting new project for the area, through the Irish Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF) which invests funds on behalf of the

National Treasury Management Agency (NTMA). ISIF has invested €24 million of Irish taxpayer funds into the development of the campus,"

said Deputy Brady.

He called on the Government to step up to the mark and do their job and ensure that the media campus is completed.

"The Minister has described the ISIF involvement as being that of a private investor, in what I can only describe as an attempt to distance the state from responsibility for its investment of taxpayers' money in the project. Two years ago, it was announced that a €300 million media campus was to be developed in Greystones with a view to opening in 2024. The campus which would have created 450 jobs during the construction phase would have led to 1,500 at the 44-acre film and TV production site.

"However, while there was some preparatory work carried out on the site, equipment and portacabins and other material was removed from the site in the middle of last year. According to the US based group the delays were a result of the Hollywood writers' strike, which ended in September last year. The fact that the Irish Strategic Investment Fund is a central partner lays a responsibility on the government to play a central role in ensuring that the project gets back on track.

"I have previously called upon Taoiseach Simon Harris and his government to show leadership to get the project back on track, unlike when they sold their

shares in Ardmore studios. Despite widespread objections and protests against the government's move.

"And I want to repeat that call now. The creation of a state-of-the-art media hub in Greystones offers huge opportunities for job creation, in an area with a growing population. I have also been in contact with Hackman Capital, the largest owner and operator of independent films and television studios and related media facilities globally, and the primary investors in the Greystones Media Campus.

"I previously wrote to Minister Michael McGrath, who as the minister responsible for the Irish Strategic Investment



John Brady TD.

Fund (ISIF), which along with the Capwell company are developing the site, for details of any available timeline in relation to the completion of the project, and whether ISIF, which is responsible for the investment of Irish taxpayer funds, has put in place guarantees to ensure that the development will be completed.

"I have since then written to his successor Minister Jack Chambers seeking the same elusive answers from him. It is

not acceptable that the government be allowed to wash its hands of its responsibility for ensuring that the Media Campus is completed. Not only is there significant taxpayer investment to the tune of €24 million, but there is also social investment by the people of the Greystones area, and a reputational and future skills investment by the Irish Film and Media industry. The government needs to step up here and do its job."



The site of the new media campus in Charlesland.

Three Wicklow photographers' images showcased as part of outdoor exhibition

Wicklow photographers Enda Kelly, Aoife Hester and Laurynas Zubrickas recently had their images selected to be showcased as part of an outdoor exhibition in the 2024 Reach for the Stars astrophotography competition run by the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies.



Photographed at the launch of the Reach for the Stars outdoor exhibition was Aoife Hester beside her image 'Crescent Moon Over Bray'.

Enda Kelly, from Wicklow town has two images on display at the exhibition. 'Lunar Brilliance at 89%: A High-Resolution Glimpse into the Waxing Gibbous Wonder' captures a high-resolution image of the Moon's surface, illuminated at 89%. The bright areas in the image are lunar highlands, filled with rugged mountains and impact craters from billions of years of cosmic events. The darker patches in the image are known as lunar maria, vast plains formed by ancient volcanic eruptions.

'Jupiter's Dance - The NEB's New Dawn', also by Mr. Kelly, captures Jupiter through an incredibly long lens captured at 5600mm focal length. The small white dot left of centre is a rift in the North Equatorial Belt, a small blemish on the marble-like patterns of the gas giant.

'Crescent Moon Over Bray' taken by Aoife Hester, from Bray, captures a shot of the crisp crescent moon over Bray, before the clouds rolled in, covering the moon for the night.

'Ocean of Stardust' taken by Laurynas Zubrickas, from Arklow, captures the Jellyfish Nebula - a massive star that ran out of fuel and exploded as a supernova, leaving behind a shell of glowing gas. The photographer set themselves the challenge of capturing it and with the unpredictable Irish weather, it took nine weeks to complete the shot.

Mr. Kelly, Ms. Hester and Mr. Zubrickas's images were on display at DIAS headquarters in July.

The winner in the 'Out of this World - Planetary' category with his image of the moon rising over Bray Head was Anthony Lynch from Stoneybatter, Dublin. Capturing this image involved a last-minute 200-yard dash down the beach for Anthony, to ensure he had the shot lined-up perfectly.

Mr. Lynch also scooped the top prize in the Public Choice category. His image, 'Cave Man', which captured the Milky Way from a cave at Goat Island, Ardmore, received the most votes in the online public vote. This year over 5,000 people cast their votes online for their favourite image.

Catching Time

A new collection of limited edition Screen prints created by Wicklow based artist Stephanie Sloan over the past year

Signal Arts Centre, Monday 19th August to Sunday 1st September

Inspired by natural forms and landscapes, Sloan creates vibrant screen prints with a strong graphic style. Working with both hand drawn and digital techniques, Sloan finds patterns emerging from nature, creating compositions that capture the energy of natural formations and play of light on surface. With a distinctive style of pared-back elements of intense colour and graphic line and form, Sloan's artworks sit between realism and abstraction, encouraging the viewer to engage in the detail from macro to the greater organic landscape.

These are a collection of joyous prints, a play of colour and amplified pattern celebrating growth, renewal and the positive power of nature in our world.

Sloan has a background in design and over the last four years has combined her practice of commercial illustration with exhibiting artworks handprinted at both Blackchurch Print Studio, Dublin, and her print studio in Arklow, Co. Wicklow. A graduate

of the National College of Art and Design, Dublin and the Royal College of Art, London, Sloan was a recipient of a Future Makers Award from the Crafts Council of Ireland 2020, and has exhibited with solo and group shows in Ireland and abroad. Recent

highlights include two solo shows at Wilton Gallery, Dublin in 2020 and 2021 and inclusion in groups shows Twenty One at Mermaid Arts Centre, Bray 2023 and Adspatium in Gavle, Sweden 2022 and Woolwich Print Fair, London 2023.



'First Bloom' by Stephanie Sloan.

Council supports the Tinahely Agricultural Show

The 2024 Tinahely Agricultural Show, which took place on Monday 5th August, is one of the largest and longest-running agricultural shows in Ireland and attracted over 20,000 visitors across the day and featured 400 trade exhibitors.

The show has been running since 1935 and continues to showcase the richness and diversity of rural life in County Wicklow with a huge range of entertainment, livestock competitions, equestrian events, arts and crafts, family fun and local food produce. The show featured some of the best livestock in the country with over 1,000 entries in cattle, sheep, horses, ponies and poultry. It also hosted the Interbreed Cattle championships, sheep shearing and geese herding, along with an equestrian section which included show jumping, horse racing and pony games. The wealth of creativity and talent within the local community and

throughout the county was celebrated at the craft village which featured over 100 stalls selling handmade craft items including jewellery, pottery, woodwork and textiles. The show also had a food village where visitors could sample some of the finest local produce from County Wicklow and beyond. Wicklow County Council supported the show again this year by having the Best of Wicklow marquee which featured the various services offered by the Council along with associated groups. One of Wicklow's greatest ambassadors and celebrity chef, Catherine Fulvio, was present on the Wicklow Naturally stage to share some of her amazing recipes using Wicklow sourced ingredients.

Wicklow County Council were also delighted to sponsor the participation of Sensory and Changing places buses at this year's show. Other stalls and stands in the Best of Wicklow marquee included:

- Wicklow Naturally
- Wicklow County Council Fire Service
- County Wicklow Mobile Library
- Local Enterprise Office
- Climate Action Team
- Civil Defence
- Wicklow Tourism
- Pure Mile Project
- LEADER (County Wicklow Partnership)
- RNLI
- Shuttle knit crafts
- Tinahely Arts Office
- Public Participation Network
- Tinahely Men's Shed
- The Plug and Grow Group
- The Rathnew Craft Group
- The 402 Community Arts Group
- West Wicklow Mental Health Association

Commenting on the day, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Cllr Paul O'Brien said, "I am honoured to attend the show in my capacity as Cathaoirleach. The Tinahely Agricultural Show continually showcases the best of agricultural produce and helps preserve the traditions of rural Ireland. It is a fantastic day out and we thank everyone who participated in such a wonderful occasion."

Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, said: "Wicklow County Council fully supports this excellent show which showcases all that is great about Wicklow. It captivates a rural and urban audience and brings tens of thousands of people to this beautiful part of the county, all of whom leave having experienced the rich culture that rural Wicklow has to offer."

Cathaoirleach of Baltinglass Municipal District, Cllr. Patsy Glennon complimented the show organisers, saying "It was fantastic to have such a successful event taking place in rural Wicklow. The show offered a day of competition, exhibitions, entertainment and fun for all the family."

Music lovers were entertained by country music legends Olivia Douglas and her Band, Jack Keogh, Theresa and the Stars and Alistair Fingelton with dancers out in force throughout the afternoon.

Throughout the day competitions were won and lost as entrants competed for coveted prizes in the cattle, sheep and horses sections.

Key winners in livestock section included:

- Belgian Blue Commercial Cross bred Champion - Winner Billy Dunne, Erril, Co Laois
- Zurich Commercial Champion class - Winner Michael and Niamh Barron, The Roar, Co. Kilkenny
- Tirlan Supreme

Champion Holstein Freisian - Winner - Patrick Kinsella

- The Red Mills Two Year Old Gelding All Ireland Championship - Winner Shirley Hurst, and Sharon Kelly
- Simmentals Champion - Winner - Garrett Behan

Places were fought for qualification in national show jumping and pony games competitions. Grannies, babies and

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
We, Powerscourt Parish, Enniskerry, Church of Ireland (Enniskerry Select Vestry), intend to apply for permission for development at this site: St. Patrick's Church, Cookstown Road, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow, a protected structure (RPS Ref. No. 03-06). The proposed development will consist of the construction of a single-storey detached Worship Hall accommodating a multi-functional worship space, meeting room, kitchen, toilets and storage and will be of +7m in height to ridge level and 155m2 in area adjacent to the existing church, with external timber cladding and pitched copper roofing, a detached single-storey timber-clad plant room of 8.3m2 to the north side of the existing church, universally accessible car parking spaces, bicycle parking, associated landscaping including the removal of an existing tree, and sundry other minor works. The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the 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.



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

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
Claire & Stephen Roche seek planning permission for: Conversion of Existing Attic Space including introduction of roof lights to front and rear roof slopes along with frosted window in gable wall of existing dwelling at 34 The Hazels, Ballinahinch Wood, Ashford, Co. Wicklow. A67 PP82. 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
Keith Ruane seeks planning permission for: Conversion of Existing Attic Space including introduction of roof lights to front and rear roof slopes along with window in gable wall of existing dwelling at 1 Eastmount Gardens, Chapel Road, Delgany, Co. Wicklow A63 X206. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
We Cristian Morar, Anca Morar intend to apply for planning permission for development at the following address: Brockna, Kiltegan, County Wicklow, W91 PV08. Attic conversion for two additional bedrooms with four dormer windows to the rear. Also single-storey extension to the rear. Four Velux windows to the front roof area. 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. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the Planning Authority on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the Planning Authority of the application.



Alana Sweeney, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Paul O'Brien, Ian Davis, Manager of the PURE Project, and Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Emer O'Gorman at the Tinahely Agricultural Show.

RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT

Full time
CARETAKER
REQUIRED
for Bray Institute of
Further Education.

Email: bifeenquiries@kwetb.ie
or phone 01 2829668 for
details.

BORD OIDEACHAIS AGUS OILUANA
CHILL DARIA AND CHILL MHAINTAIN
WILDARE AND WICKLOW
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

Project Landscape Architect.
Austen Associates in
Wicklow. Min. 2 years
experience. €34k gross.
39hrs pw. Landscape design
detailing, consultancy.
[designdesk@](mailto:designdesk@austenassociates.ie)
austenassociates.ie

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

Over €6,000,000 in ICOB grants paid to Wicklow businesses

Senator Pat Casey has confirmed more than €6,000,000 has been paid to Wicklow businesses under the Increased Cost of Business (ICOB) scheme.

It comes as his party colleague Minister of State for Trade Promotion Dara Calleary TD, confirmed payments under the Government grant scheme reached more than €200 million nationwide to some 81,000 small and medium sized businesses (SMEs).

The ICOB grant was designed to help SMEs with the increased costs associated with running a business and was administered by the local authorities on behalf of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

"I'm delighted that nationwide payments under the Increased Cost of Business Scheme have passed the €200,000,000 mark," Senator Casey said.

"These funds are directly helping small and medium sized businesses across the country deal with day-to-day expenses. It's a practical and targeted Government support.

"In Wicklow, a total of €6,458,919 worth of payments were issued to businesses in the county. Some 2,275 businesses received €4,046,167 in the first tranche of pay-



Senator Pat Casey

ments and 1,123 businesses received €2,412,752 in the second round of payments.

"That's a significant sum of money going directly to local business-

es to assist them with ongoing challenges.

"Fianna Fáil in Government is committed to helping small businesses across the country.

"Nationwide some 71,672 small and medium sized businesses have received their first payments, totalling €148 million, under the scheme. A further €58 million in second payments have been made, bringing the total to €205 million to date.

"A total of €257 million is available under the scheme and further payments continue to be made on a daily basis.

Fitzpatrick Hotel Collection acquires Ireland's oldest hotel

Mark and Joseph Scott-Lennon, directors of Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel have announced the acquisition of The Woodenbridge Hotel & Lodge.

This is the first Irish Fitzpatrick Hotel in over 20 years and marks a significant milestone in the history of both establishments, uniting one of Ireland's oldest hospitality families with the country's oldest hotel. The Woodenbridge Hotel & Lodge becomes the second property in the newly named Fitzpatrick Hotel Collection, which aims to expand further in the coming years.

Commenting on the acquisition, Mark Scott-Lennon, said: "We are delighted to welcome Woodenbridge Hotel & Lodge into our family. Our goal is to honour the rich history of the hotel, while bringing the Fitzpatrick family

commitment to exceptional service and hospitality. We are excited to build on the hotel's legacy and create new traditions that reflect our values and vision for excellence."

Joseph Scott-Lennon added, "We are excited to embark on this new chapter and look forward to welcoming guests to experience the unique charm and warm hospitality that both Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel, and Woodenbridge Hotel & Lodge are known for. We would like to thank Gerard O'Brien and his family for their stewardship of Woodenbridge and wish them every success in the future."

Also commenting on the acquisition, previous owner of Woodenbridge, Gerard O'Brien, said: "We want to thank everyone connected with the hotel over the past 31 years, particularly our great team and our many loyal customers. The Fitzpatrick family has built its reputation on strong family values which very much reflect our own and it's with great pride that we pass on the keys to them today. We're delighted that they recognised both the quality of our offering and the clear synergies between our hotels, ensuring The Woodenbridge becomes a natural extension of the Fitzpatrick family."



Lucy Farrington Doyle and Lucy Hand at the Codling Wind Park Irish Beach Spring Championships at Brittas Bay.

ALLSHADES BLINDS

- Roller • Vertical • Wood Venetian
- Pleated • Velux • Roman

Tel: 087 2201600

FACTORY: Unit 10, Block 1, Broomhall Business Park, Rathnew. Tel: 0404 20344

LOCAL BUSINESS

LOCAL BUSINESS

LOCAL BUSINESS

O'BRIENS
ROOFING & GUTTERING

Gutters Cleaned & Sealed **From €49** Roof Repairs **From €199**

Call Richard: 087 348 8516
www.obriensroofingandguttering.ie

McMullans of Arklow

SUMMER SALE

UP TO HALF PRICE

PLEASE CHECK IN STORE

4 Main St., Arklow T: 040232356. Open 9.30am-6pm

www.mcmullansarklow.com

ANTO'S TREE SERVICES

Fully Insured Tree Surgeon

Pruning, Reductions and Removal

All Aspects of Tree Surgery

Tel: 087 610 9128

VASS AUTOS

We Would Love to Have You Visit Soon!

VW AUDI SALES AND SERVICE SPECIALISTS

Ballinglen, Tinahely, Co. Wicklow. Y14 N447
Email: info@vassautos.ie. Tel: 087 6371366

Floors and Carpets Direct

Huge selection of Carpet, Timber & Vinyl Flooring on display at our extensive showrooms at the Egan Centre, Dargle Rd, Bray, Co. Wicklow

FREE ESTIMATES • FREE MEASURING NO OBLIGATION • BEST PRICES

Floors & Carpets Direct, The Egan Centre, Bray, Co. Wicklow
Tel: 01 276 5586 | Caroline: 087 121 1639 | Tom: 086 809 2065

EB ELEGANT BATHROOMS

Your dream space comes to reality

Ciaran: 087 191 5480 Shane: 087 605 6326
info@elegantbathrooms.ie Check out our Facebook page

Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow

www.elegantbathrooms.ie

ACE ROOFING WICKLOW

ROOFING | TILING | SOFFITS & FASCIAS | ATTICS

NO. 1 FOR ROOF REPAIRS IN WICKLOW

- Call now for free no obligation quote. We won't be beaten on price or on the quality.
- Guarantee on all work.
- Free advice and no obligation quotation.
- Open 7 days a week and emergency call out available.

085 730 5786
0404 71034
info@aceroofing.ie
www.aceroofing.ie

DERMOT FORTUNE

PAINTING & DECORATING

20 Years Experience

REASONABLE RATES NO JOB TOO BIG OR SMALL

FREE QUOTE ON: 086-8613651

SELF-STORAGE

24hr access own door/key.

Secure dry storage units/containers various sizes. Suit house contents etc. Reasonable rates.

ASHFORD AREA

Tel 086 259 1538

yes you can

with Slimming World

BYRNES PUB, KILCOOLE

Call/text Trevor: 085 2499982

MON: 5.30pm & 7.00pm
THURS: 5.00pm & 6.30pm
SAT: 9.00am & 10.30am



**Arvo 3 + 1 3 Seater +
Armchair
WAS €2290**

**NOW
€1295**



**Valent dining table
2.1M
WAS €1395**

**NOW
€1165**



**Layla 3ft Bed Frame
(Photo shows Double)
WAS €595**

**NOW
€395**



**Selene 2 Seater
fixed sofa
WAS €1435**

**NOW
€995**

Ask about our
Interest free credit
available with
hummm
T&Cs apply



**Flanagan Kerins®
'Furniture for Life'**



www.flanagankerins.ie



+353 1 281 3338



sales@flanagankerins.ie