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Tuesday 10th September 2024 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

ARKLOW'S €3.5BN INVESTMENT

In a momentous decision that promises to reshape the future of Wicklow and beyond, Wicklow Fianna Fáil Senator Pat Casey has welcomed Eirgrid's historic decision to connect Echelon Data Centres to the national grid at the iconic old IFI site in Arklow. "This decision marks a pivotal milestone in the journey towards a sustainable digital future," he said.



Senator Pat Casey.

"This is a watershed moment," declared Senator Casey. "Echelon is now setting the gold standard for the next generation of Data Centres, becoming a centre of excellence in our quest to meet energy demands, energy security, and achieve our climate change goals. This pivotal moment propels Echelon to the forefront of the global 'Sust-ainable' digital revolution."

Senator Casey says he has worked hand in hand with Echelon since their initial interest in the historic IFI site. With this approval, the impact of this investment for Wicklow, Arklow and North Wexford are immense. Taoiseach Simon Harris has also welcomed the news of a "major jobs investment in Arklow". "This is good news



Kim Harris, Daisy Murphy, Nicola O'Dwyer and Jack O'Dwyer at the Newcastle Parish Summer Festival on the grounds of St. Francis National School. Photo by Michael Kelly.

Activator Poles for Neuro Conditions

8WEEK PROGRAMME

Monday 16th September
 1:30pm - 2:30pm
 Ballywaltrim Community Centre, Bray

This programme is for those living with Parkinsons & MS

Call to find out more
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Email Denise at
wicklowlsp@wicklowcoco.ie

for Wicklow but particularly for Arklow which will be boosted by this major investment and result in over 1,000 jobs.

"Thanks to the strong economy built by the Government I lead, we are seeing major investment in Arklow, which translates to jobs in the community and more investment in our communities."

This Project will deliver:

- A County investment of over €3.5 billion from Echelon alone. This is only the first phase; it is key to note that the investment from the end occupiers of the facilities will be a multiple of the Echelon investment.
- Rejuvenation of an underutilised, brown industrial site (IFI Site) - restoring this industrial area to its former resource as a major employer and econom-

ic hub in an area that has suffered badly from a lack of investment and employment opportunities over recent decades.

- Over 1,100 medium to long term (c. 5 year) construction jobs will be created.
- Over 200 permanent operational jobs will be created. Again, please note that the end occupiers of the facilities will also bring significant operational employment.
- Substantial economic advantages to local industries - Echelon is already prioritising local industry in their supply chain and will expand this as the projects commence.
- Echelon will invest in Wicklow communities - already evidenced by the €1.5m sponsorship deal with Wicklow GAA.
- Greatly improved regional profile as a

result attracting some of the top 'Tech Companies' in the world to base in Wicklow and Arklow. the provision of key • Accelerates and

Continued on page 3



Tai Chi for Respiratory Conditions

8WEEK PROGRAMME

Tuesday 24th September
 11:30am - 12:30pm
 Shoreline Leisure, Bray

This programme is for those living with asthma and COPD.

Call to find out more
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Newcastle music festival to raise funds for playground

Experience the Magic of Music in the Heart of History at The Castle Music Festival in Newcastle Village, September 13th-15th

Get ready to be enchanted by the inaugural Castle Music Festival, set against the breathtaking backdrop of the medieval village of Newcastle, Co. Wicklow. From Friday, September 13th to Sunday, September 15th, this unique festival will bring together the best of live music, local culture, and ancient charm for an unforgettable weekend.

The Castle Music Festival is more than just a music event - it's an experience that will transport you through time. Nestled in the heart of Newcastle Village, this festival will showcase the vibrant sounds of today against a historic setting that has witnessed centuries of Irish heritage.

Festival-goers will be treated to an exceptional lineup of renowned musicians, including the soulful **Mary Coughlan**, the dynamic **Paul Noonan of Bell X1**, and the versatile **Maria Doyle Kennedy**. Each artist brings a distinct sound and energy, promising an eclectic mix of performances that will resonate with all music lovers.

In addition to the music, festival attendees will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the rich local culture of Newcastle Village, enjoying the warm hospitality that Co. Wicklow is known for.

This event is not just a celebration of music and history; it's also a festival with a heart.

All proceeds from The Castle Music Festival will go towards the development of an inclusive, sensory, and special needs playground for the children of Newcastle Village. This initiative aims to create a space where all children can play and grow together, fostering a sense of community and inclusion.

Tickets for The Castle Music Festival are on sale now. Don't miss this chance to be part of a truly magical event where the past and present come together in harmony. Join us in Newcastle Village for a weekend of music, culture, and charity.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit <https://www.eventcreate.com/e/thecastlemusicfestival>.



Mary Coughlan.



Paul Noonan of Bell X1.



Maria Doyle Kennedy.



Julie, Andrew and Emily Leeson officially open Will's Playground at the Newcastle Parish Summer Festival. The playground has been built at St. Francis National School to honour the memory of Will Leeson, a pupil at the school who passed away in 2021 when he was only 8 years old.

Newcastle Colour Run 2024



Anti abortionist candidate,
Charlie Keddy

'To you who voted for me, no matter the number, Thank You!

'To you who did not, Jesus Christ was killed for what he said, - I live on!'

Roll on the General Election...
STOP ABORTION

The Newcastle Colour Run is back for 2024 and will take place on Saturday 28th September at Leamore Lane, Newcastle. Get ready for an unforgettable experience where participants of all ages are drenched in a kaleidoscope of powdered colours from head to toe!



Picture of last year's Will's Colour Run in Newcastle. Photo by Michael Kelly.

"This year's Colour Run is dedicated to raising essential funds for St. Francis National School and Newcastle Parish, and we'd love for people from all over Wicklow and beyond to join us in making a difference. Whether you choose to walk, jog, or run, the atmosphere will be buzzing with energy and laughter," says Conor O'Leary of the organising committee.

Taking place in the picturesque village of Newcastle, the course is designed to be accessible and enjoyable for everyone, no matter your pace. As you move through the route, you'll pass through vibrant colour zones where volunteers will shower you with non-toxic, washable powders, turning your plain white shirt into a rainbow of colours.

When participants reach the finish line, a lively celebration awaits, featuring music, even more colour throws, and a sense of accomplishment. The festivities continue with a post-race BBQ, where people can relax and enjoy the vibrant atmosphere.

So, grab your brightest outfit, lace up your running shoes, and get ready for the Newcastle Colour Run 2024. It's a day where fitness, fun, and colour collide to create memories that will last a lifetime.

Let the colours bring your spirit to life! Tickets now on sale at [eventbrite.ie](https://www.eventbrite.ie) 'Newcastle Colour Run' or visit <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/newcastle-colour-run-2024-tickets-1003062877067>

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Will there be 'blue blood on the carpet' on Friday 13th?

Fine Gael will hold their selection convention this Friday (13th) in the Glenview Hotel. Former Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar wil chair the meeting which is expected to be 'tense'.

Three candidates are going forward for two places on the general election ticket: Taoiseach Simon Harris, Councillor Edward Timmins and former councillor Shay Cullen.

It had been expected that only one name, Edward Timmins, would be put forward to run with the Taoiseach but at the last minute, Shay Cullen entered the fray.

The Wicklow constituency has been reduced from 5 seats to 4 seats, so one of the sitting TDs will lose out. For Fine Gael to gain a seat is a big ask, but Party strategists feel that the 'Harris Hop' could be a major factor.

It was with this in mind that the Taoiseach asked Edward Timmins to run with him, reasoning that Timmins was a consistent poll topper in west

Wicklow, that he had been loyal to the party down the years, was geographically perfectly placed and that the party had delivered 3 seats out of six in the local elections in west Wicklow.

Shay Cullen before he stepped down had been a very popular poll-topping councillor who never made a secret of his ambition to run for the Dail. However, when the constituency was divided and he stepped down and didn't contest the local elections it was thought that he had given up on his Dail hopes, especially as he is based in the north of the county with Simon Harris.

There are upwards of 300 members who are eligible to vote and with fierce canvassing by both candidates it is expected that there will be a large turn out.



An Taoiseach Simon Harris TD.

One question being posed by many Fine Gael members is whether Shay Cullen, if unsuccessful on the night, might run as an Independent. Many of his supporters feel that he would stand a very good chance of election.



Former councillor Shay Cullen.eed



Cllr Edward Timmins.



Lucy McCabe, Tommy Byrne and Tiana Kelly at the recent Little Bray Community Centre Fun Day.

ARKLOW'S €3.5BN INVESTMENT

Continued from page 1

electrical infrastructure, the development of the renewable industry in the Wicklow region.

• Improving general infrastructure (including data connectivity) in the region.

"The Garden County, with Echelon, is rewriting the narrative around Data Centres," Senator Casey continued. "By setting a new standard using sustainable energy and accessing the grid only when it has capacity, Echelon is leading the charge in how Data Centres can deliver on our climate targets, and will be the first in Ireland to contribute

to a reduction in grid carbon emissions-a first for the industry."

Senator Casey extended his heartfelt congratulations to Echelon, and especially to Niall Molloy and Graeme McWilliams, for their unwavering resilience and unshakeable confidence in this project, despite the numerous challenges faced along the way. "Now, Echelon is poised to transform Wicklow and Arklow into the hub for technological investment, heralding a new era of innovation and prosperity for the County," he proclaimed.

Reflecting on his political journey, Senator Casey remarked,

"Since entering politics, I have worked tirelessly to ensure that Wicklow gets the investment that delivers sustainable employment for all areas of Wicklow. Today's announcement is yet another testament to my commitment to the people of Wicklow. This is not just a victory for Echelon, but a triumph for every resident of Wicklow who has dreamed of a brighter, more sustainable future. Wicklow is set to become a global leader in sustainable digital technology, paving the way for a new era of economic growth and environmental stewardship. The journey has just begun, and the possibilities are boundless."

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Emergency Services Day takes place on Bray Seafront

An Emergency Services Day was held on Bray Seafront on Sunday 8th September. This was a Multi emergency services District free event which was organised by local Community Gardai.

On the day there were many Emergency Services vehicles on display and displays including an Garda Síochána. Also on display were the RSA interactive vehicle, The Fire Brigade, Coast Guard, Civil Defence, the Order of Malta, SARDA, Lifesavers Mountain Rescue RNLI, First Responders and others.

The RSA especially want to reach out to new drivers. This is an Interactive shuttlebus where you can practice your driving and hazard perception, Experience the dangers of driving and texting, try your break reaction, learn about tyre safety & more.

“For this reason we really want to reach out to Secondary level schools, teenagers and older twenty somethings, but it's something that we all should try,” Gardai said.



Wicklow RNLI Inshore Lifeboat was launched recently following a coast guard pager alert, to investigate reports of a capsized kayak off Wicklow harbour. The inshore lifeboat with Helm Alan Goucher and two volunteer crew was on scene minutes after launching, they found a person in the water beside the capsized kayak at the entrance to Wicklow harbour. The kayaker was taken onto the lifeboat and after a casualty care check, no further medical aid was needed. The person and their kayak were landed safely ashore none the worse after their ordeal. Photo courtesy of Wicklow RNLI.

New York Firefighters to pass through Wicklow on first of day of joint charity cycle

The National Retained Firefighters Association of Ireland are undertaking a joint three-day charity cycle with visiting members of the New York Fire Department (FDNY). The cycle begins this week on Monday 9th September, departing from the Embassy Residence of United States of America in Phoenix Park.

Their goal is to 'To put the fire out' on Children's Cancer and to honour those that were lost on 9/11, and those lost on both sides of the Atlantic.

On Monday the route will take the cyclists to the Bray Firefighters Memorial, Greystones fire station, Wicklow Town Fire station, Arklow Fire station and Gorey fire sta-

tion. Tuesday will see them begin from Wexford Fire station, traveling on to Waterford and Cork.

The committee of the National Retained Firefighters Association of Ireland plays an important part in communicating the messages from the 2500 Retained Firefighters across the country. When their members said they

wanted to support a charity they knew as a committee that it was important they choose the right charities to support.

They have chosen Aoibheann's Pink Tie as their long-term charity partner, with a particular focus on long-term goals for the Aoibheann's Lighthouse Project and this year's main fundraising

event is a Joint Charity Cycle which raises funds for both Aoibheann's Pink Tie and for the Friends of Firefighters in New York City.

Friends of Firefighters in New York City is a not-for profit organisation that provides independent, confidential, and free mental health counselling and wellness services to active and retired FDNY firefighters and their family members.

The Aoibheann's Lighthouse Project is a vital service, giving families from every part of Ireland who have a child receiving vital cancer treatment in Hospital, clean, safe, purpose-built accommodation for the period of their child's cancer treatment.

This is the culmination of 10 years of fundraising with Aoibheann's Pink Tie, which began after the death of Jimmy Norman's daughter Aoibheann. That fundraising has resulted in the purchase and renovation of a house - Aoibheann's Lighthouse - in Drimnagh, Dublin,

funds for which were boosted considerably with the continuing proceeds of Strip and Dip - a huge fundraising initiative by Deirdre Featherstone, herself a cancer survivor.

Said Jimmy Norman, Co-Founder, Aoibheann's Pink Tie "We are delighted to announce the continued support of the NRFA in supporting our charity. Huge thanks to Steven McFadden, and the teams in the NRFA for doing this to raise much needed funds for us to provide our ongoing services.

"This year's joint pro-

ject is particularly exciting for us in terms of this wonderful association, and we are very proud to be joint recipients of this fund-raising, together with Friends of Firefighters in New York City and to accompany them on their journey around Ireland."

The NRFA stated "NRFA firefighters have a caring ethos, a spirit of volunteerism, and a need to achieve something real. Most people know somebody who has been touched by fire much like cancer so we the firefighters of Ireland are here to help with both current and future APT

projects like this.

The National Retained Firefighters Association is a representative body for all retained firefighters. They are not a trade union - they are an association. They are a body that works solely on behalf of all firefighters in Ireland. It is their wish to serve the community as best they can by empowering their 2,500 members and by using the resources available to them. As firefighters they need a voice, and their association is as important as the work they do for communities across Ireland.

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Jeff Costello, Cllr. Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Paul McCormack, Brian Murray, Cllr. Orla Finn, Mark Atkins, Derek Kavanagh, and Cathal Callanan launching the charity cycle.



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New funding opportunity to support local climate and environmental engagement

A new funding opportunity to support local engagement on climate and environment was launched last week. These were developed based on feedback from voluntary and community groups.

Greystones Green Party Councillor and Clean Coasts North Wicklow Co ordinator Lourda Scott welcomed the announcement. "This unique fund is to support groups to talk about climate actions they may be undertaking in our community. It is not for climate actions by themselves as there are many other funding streams available for those. Instead this funding is aimed at supporting communication and engagement needs of community groups and helping to share information about their climate actions throughout the community. In a very practical way it can be used to pay for flyers, posters, digital and social media etc. to help spread the word about what you're doing and to recruit more members. Or help arrange a local meeting to talk about the climate actions your group is doing and encourage others to join. I know first hand through my work with Clean Coasts how hard it can be to spread the word on the different activities that are being organised. With all the amazing environmental groups in the area, there is a lot of action going on and any initiative to bring people together and share ideas can only be good for people and the environment. I'd encourage any established group involved with environmental action to look into this and please contact me if I can be of any help with the application."

The application process is straightforward with the deadline to apply is 4pm, Friday 4th October 2024. A webinar will be hosted to go through the grant round and the application process in more detail at 11:00am, Friday September 6th. See <https://www.community-foundation.ie/apply-for-funding/>



Cllr Lourda Scott on Greystones South Beach.

Join 150 Clean Coasts volunteers for the Big Beach Clean

Over 400 groups and more than 10,000 volunteers nationwide are set to join the Big Beach Clean from the 20th-22nd of September, to remove marine litter and be part of an international citizen science project.

Ten groups and 150 volunteers who reside in County Wicklow are all set to join Clean Coasts for the Big Beach Clean this September 20th to 22nd, supported by Kia Ireland to make a positive impact on the Irish coast and waterways. With the deadline for registering fast approaching, this is a final reminder to volunteers to sign up before the 11th of September to avail of free kit, while stocks last.

The Big Beach Clean is part of the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) organised by the Ocean Conservancy, and is an annual call-to-action for individuals, families, and communities to join forces to carry out a clean-up at the end of the bathing season and join a worldwide citizen science project. Volunteers are set to host a beach clean or join an existing one. 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! This year looks set to see groups from all over Ireland turn out in huge numbers. Last year, Wicklow had over 150 volunteers who took part in the 2023 Big

Beach Clean and made a huge difference to their County collecting 840kg of litter.

This year, clean-ups will be happening in various locations, including Greystones, Arklow, Bray and Blessington. A list of clean-ups happening in County Wicklow as part of the Big Beach Clean can be found on the Clean Coasts website.

Whether you're an individual looking to set up a private clean up or a bigger group looking to host a public one, you'll find all the information you need on www.clean-coasts.org (See editor's notes).

Each item of litter collected and submitted via Marine Litter Data cards or Clean Swell app is shared with Ocean Conservancy, who will use the information received to create reports

and advocate around the world to tackle the problem of ocean litter.

Group efforts in Ireland will contribute to global data collected which can influence significant environmental policy changes worldwide, including the banning of certain plastic items like bags and straws or the implementation of laws to prohibit smoking on beaches. The data collected by our volunteers in previous years have informed national campaigns such as "Bin the Butt" and "Break Up With Plastic".

Litter on our beaches comes from many sources including drains and the streets of our towns and cities so it is important to ensure these areas are kept clean and litter free. In joining forces with The National Spring Clean programme, the Big Beach Clean also encourages residents from non-coastal communities to register and help prevent litter from entering our

waterways and ocean.

In 2023, the top three items recorded during the Big Beach Clean weekend were plastic wrappers, cigarette butts and plastic bottles. Overall, the 2024 International Coastal Clean-up Report from Ocean Conservancy found that the top 3 items found on beaches worldwide in 2023 were cigarette butts, plastic bottles and bottle caps.

A recent national litter survey by business group Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) revealed that since the introduction of the Government's Deposit Return Scheme we have seen a fall in cans and plastic bottles on our streets contributing to an overall improvement in litter levels. There was a rise in the number of sites deemed clean across the country, with a significant fall in those judged to be 'heavily littered'. Cigarette butts, one of this year's top marine litter offenders remains stubbornly high,

present in 31% of the 500+ sites surveyed by IBAL. (See editors notes.)

Bronagh Moore, An Taisce's Clean Coasts Manager, commented: "We are thrilled to see such large numbers already signed up for the Big Beach Clean 2024. It's a fantastic way for individuals, clubs and communities to come together and be part of a powerful movement working to protect our coastlines and waterways. By recording and reporting on the litter collected, we are not only cleaning up our beaches but providing important data that can influence and lead to impactful global campaigns and changes in policy. It's a great opportunity to be involved in a global effort to protect our ocean."

Registrations will close at 5pm on the 11th of September. For more information and to register, visit www.clean-coasts.org



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'This year has been the worst ever'

Families across Wicklow suffering the stress of school bus fiasco

Wicklow County Council is to write to An Taoiseach Simon Harris TD and Minister for Education Norma Foley to request "an urgent and comprehensive" review on the management of the school transport system.

The matter was raised at last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council. The purpose of the review is to identify the current shortfalls in the school transport service division. The issue was raised by Cllr Peir Leonard with the support of fellow Independent councillors Joe Behan and Tom Fortune.

Since the new school year began, parents and students across the county have been affected by a series of issues in relation to the poor management of the school transport system, such as last-minute notification of cancellation of school bus services just days before the school term began, even though they have full tickets.

The current service is "causing severe stress to parents and students on an annual basis," said Cllr Leonard, who's asking that funding be ring-fenced to implement the necessary recommendations of the report as part of the next annual budget.

"It's just gotten progressively worse and the last two years have been particularly bad, and last year I thought it can't get any worse than this, and then this year it's just been the worst ever," said Cllr Leonard. "I am just feeling so helpless because I am looking at lots of parents from across the county, and they're all suffering from the stress and the unprofessionalism, I just can't get over the mismanagement of it all. I couldn't believe it when I learned that there actually has been a report done in February last and the problem is still progressively getting worse."

Continuing, Cllr Leonard said "Out of the schools affected, one in particular is particularly difficult to stomach because it is New Court School in Bray. There's ten students at least, new students, Bus Eireann were notified about these students since June, and according to the principal, Louise Egan, their operator is ready and willing to go and they're just waiting on Bus Eireann to rubber stamp the service. A lot of these students have no access whatsoever to transport and have potentially now no school for up to three weeks until this is sorted."

"Three schools in Arklow - St Mary's, Glenart and CBS are affected. There's no service from Aughrim to Arklow. I have emailed the

Department of Education and Minister Foley, and I still haven't had a reply.

"The other place affected is Rathmore Holiday Village. They have up to 41 students with no bus service at all to bring them into Ashford and Newtownmountkennedy. And then the last two that I know about - I'm sure other councillors know of others - are East Glendalough and CCM in Wicklow Town. There's no service from Arklow to East Glendalough at the moment."

Cllr Fortune said "There's parents being told that their child doesn't have transport they had 12 months ago, or a sibling doesn't have it going forward. The whole thing is chaotic and the fact they can't get a response or answer is not right. We have got to do something about this and really be clear on who we need to talk to about it. We have to take it on board here as public representatives to make something happen with the support of the Executive. That's the way I would like to support the motion that Councillor Leonard has put forward. Because what she's reflected is what is happening all across the county, and it is crazy."

Also supporting the motion, Cllr Peter Stapleton suggested that the Council ask that an audit of Bus Eireann be completed in relation to their delivery of the service.

"Over the past number of years there have been big changes within the school transport system, notably the vast reduction in fees or cost for that transport," said Cllr Stapleton. "That has had a knock-on effect where people would take up places on bus routes where they mightn't necessarily use them full-time. But I do think as a whole it has probably been a failure of performance and delivery within Bus Eireann."

Cllr Graham Richmond, a teacher at one of the affected schools, East Glendalough, said "Bus Eireann knew about this issue last September. They notified persons as late as last Friday that they wouldn't have a school bus for the Monday. It is unacceptable. And then I spoke to a bus operator just Thursday last, and he was notified on Wednesday, nearly a week after some schools had returned to school, that he had got the tender. I think it is really

imperative as Councillors that we take a stand on this issue. The Bus Eireann tenders for the service are issued too late. Also, at the moment it's law that to drive a bus you have to

retire at 70. Now there's a number of 70-years-old who have their bus licence and would be prepared and are able to drive a bus both in the morning and afternoon. The reason we're not attracting people into the industry is the cost to train up and get your licence as a bus driver is too much."

Also speaking on the issue last week, Social Demcorats TD Jennifer criticised the Minister for Education for her "lack of intervention to prevent

avoidable school bus chaos". This follows Deputy Whitmore's recent request that the Minister for Education respond to the concerns of parents who were notified in late August that their children's school bus would not be running.

Deputy Whitmore said: "Before the school year began, we knew several routes were impacted by lack of buses. When ticket holders for the school buses affected in Wicklow reached out to me on this, I

wrote to the Minister and Bus Eireann, asking them to do everything they could to help. Those requests seem to have fallen on deaf ears. This issue arises every August and September. Every year, there are not enough spaces on buses for students in Wicklow, and we get the same inaction from the Minister every year. The reality is that short notice is given to families, and too many children are left behind.

"This year, we have

seen four bus routes secure buses at the last minute, and parents were only advised on a Friday that a bus had been secured for Monday. Two further bus routes came into operation on Monday, September 2nd, one week into the school term. There are thirteen routes which are still not in operation across Wicklow. Two of these routes are for children with additional or complex needs, and the lack of school transport is significantly impacting their well-being.

"In the last year, we have been told that the scheme is due to be expended, but unless there

is a clear outline of where the extra buses will be coming from to accommodate that, those commitments ring hollow. Yet again, the parents of students here in Wicklow are left to advocate for their children, and I want to commend them on their work.

"Their voices have been heard this week on the national airwaves and in the national papers. It shouldn't have to come to this for them. I am sure they would much rather be seeing their kids off to the school bus than having to speak to the press," concluded Deputy Whitmore.



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BORD OIDEACHAIS AGUS OILIUNA CHILL DARA AND CHILL MHANTÁIN KILDARE AND WICKLOW EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

Progress at BIFE as new roof moves to tender stage

An Taoiseach Simon Harris has confirmed that the new roof for Bray Institute of Further Education (BIFE) has been approved to move to tender stage. This is positive progress the Taoiseach said, but insisted that he wants no further delays to this project. The Taoiseach has committed to working closely with the Department of Further and Higher Education and KWETB to make sure this roof gets repaired as soon as possible.

Speaking last Friday, the Taoiseach said: "I am delighted today to announce that the project to repair the roof on BIFE is to effectively go out to tender this week. I know from speaking to students of BIFE as well as teachers and management that there is a dire need to get the roof repaired. "I have been working closely with Minister Patrick O'Donovan and the Department of Further and Higher Education to get this project over the line. The Department of Further and Higher Education this week have approved the project to proceed to the next stage which is Detailed Design and Tender Stage. "Since my time in the Department of Further and Higher Education I know how important these capital projects are for our institutions in County Wicklow. As Taoiseach I have placed a particular focus on making sure our young people have the best and most state-of-the-art facilities to learn in. I am eager to see this project move forward fast and will working night and day to get the project finalised over the next few months."



An Taoiseach Simon Harris TD pictured during a recent visit to BIFE, with Principal Ray Tedders (right).

Fundraiser for Daena's boys

The Roundwood neighbours of the Walsh family have set up a GoFundMe page for the young sons of 29 year old Daena Walsh, who was fatally stabbed in Middleton, Co. Cork in August.

Daena left behind two young sons Ezra and Kyson, aged 3 and 5, who are now being cared for by Daena's mother in the Roundwood family home. Daena was found with fatal stab wounds on 2nd August and her partner Adam Corcoran (29) has been charged with her murder. The Cork apartment where they were living was set on fire and so Daena's sons lost all of their possessions. On the GoFundMe page, organisers of the fundraiser Debbie and Bernie say "These two beautiful little boys now have to leave their home and start a new life with Daena's mam and their new little life will have to be set up all over again. This will come with a huge cost as the house will now have to be arranged to home two little boys [...] This is a very sad situation nobody should ever have to face. Please if you can donate anything at all to help these two boys." So far over €6,000 has been raised. In an update, they posted: "Thank you so much to everyone who has donated and shared our fundraiser for Daena's boys. Thanks for your incredible generosity [...] Every contribution has played a crucial role in helping these little boys begin their new life. As we move forward, there are still ongoing needs, setting up their new home will require additional support, especially as we work to create a safe and comforting space for the boys to heal and grow."

The GoFundMe page can be found at <https://gofund.me/95de48ee>



Ezra and Kyson with their mum Daena.



Lorraine McElwain, Joanna Byrne and Deirdre Byrne at the Newcastle Parish Summer Festival at St. Francis National School.

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Planning application submitted for Greystones Primary Care Centre

State of the art facility will provide services to Greystones, Kilcoole and Delgany

A planning application for a major Primary Care Centre to serve the communities of Greystones, Kilcoole and Delgany has been lodged with Wicklow County Council.

Welcoming the milestone, Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly said: "I'm delighted to

confirm that the planning application has now been lodged with Wicklow County Council. What is

being proposed is a state-of-the-art and modern Primary Care Centre that will facilitate important

health services for the residents of Greystones, Kilcoole and Delgany.

"I approved funding in the 2024 Health Capital Plan to ensure we could progress to planning this year. Significant design and development work has now been completed and it's a major step to see the planning application lodged with the county council.

"I'm hopeful that the planning application will be successful and this part of the process could be concluded before the end of the year. This would mean we could go to tender for construction early next year, have the construction diggers and boots on the ground by the second half of the year, and this Primary Care Centre will be treating patients in 2026."

The development will consist of a four-storey building off the Mill Road in Greystones on a site to be developed by the Health Service Executive. The proposed development will extend to over 5,600 square metres on a 0.63 hectare site.

Minister Donnelly continued: "This will be one of the biggest Primary Care Centres in the country and will be similar in scale to the centres developed in Arklow and Bray. I've been working to ensure that we deliver a centre that provides the right community care for the people of Greystones, Kilcoole and Delgany. What is now proposed also allows for future expansion as I have no doubt our communities will continue to grow and require more primary care."

The Primary Care



Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly and architect Seamus McMorris outside County Buildings.



Architects Impression on Mill Road from North.



Digital image of what the completed Primary Care Centre would look like.

Centre will offer a range of services, including:

- A large-scale GP Practice (5 consultation rooms);
- Two Primary Care Teams (doctors, nurses, Home Helps, Health and Social Care Professionals and Health Care Assistants working together to ensure patients receive services in a timely and coordinated way in their community);
- Dental Services;
- Child and Adolescent

Mental Health Service (CAMHS Team and Community Team);

- Adult Mental Health Service;
- National Counselling Service;
- Older persons day Service;
- Disability Services;
- 2nd GP Practice (future expansion)
- Diagnostics (future expansion).

Minister Donnelly concluded: "It's ten years since a Primary Care

Centre was first proposed for this community and we are now at a really important milestone in getting this delivered and treating patients in their community.

"I'd like to thank everyone who has worked with me and the HSE to getting to this point. There is still a lot of work to be done to get this centre built and delivered and I'll continue to progress this project until it is treating patients."

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Taoiseach opens Harvest Festival in Greystones



An Taoiseach Simon Harris at the Harvest Festival in Greystones

An Taoiseach Simon Harris opened this year's Hawkins Wood & Aldborough Harvest Festival in Greystones, a significant local event aimed at strengthening the bonds of the community in Hawkins Wood, Aldborough, Charlesland and Greystones.

The Harvest Festival is the first of its kind in the community and celebrated the community's diversity and promote the sense of togetherness. The event featured live performances by local artists, an array of food vendors, activities for children and a festive atmosphere.

The event was organised by Common Ground, a group of dedicated residents from Hawkins Wood and Aldborough who are focused on improving the quality of life and community in the area.

Speaking at the event Taoiseach Simon Harris said: "It is such an honour to cut the ribbon and open this event. As a local, I want to thank Common Ground and all the residents involved in organising such a wonderful event celebrating community and family."

"This organisation has already organised a number of successful community events like the recent Easter Egg Hunt and the Street Feast which were a true success and a testa-

ment to the dedication of every volunteer. As Taoiseach and as the local TD I want to see more events like these bringing together neighbours and families across the area and strengthen the bonds we already have, as well as welcome the new residents.

"I was delighted to see so many residents attend as well as our local Councillors, school principals, community volunteers and more. The residents here are proud of the diverse and vibrant community in the area, home to families from all walks of life."

The festival included a hill run, a dog show, a teddy bear picnic, and other activities that reflect the spirit of togetherness and inclusivity.

An Taoiseach Simon Harris added: "Today's event has truly lifted the community's spirit, and I have no doubt that more events like these will be organised in the coming months given the positive feedback and enthusiasm shown today. I look forward to seeing what is organised next."



Ranjith, Reshma, Rihan Bkmech and An Taoiseach Simon Harris at Harvest Festival. Photo by John McGowan.



Martin Foley

June 7th 1943 ~ August 14th 2024

Acknowledgment

In loving memory of Martin Foley, late of Applewood Heights, Greystones, Co. Wicklow and formerly of Elm Park, Ennis Road and Coolrairie Estate, Mayorstone, Limerick, who passed away unexpectedly while on holiday in Achill Co. Mayo, his daughter and son, Karen and Colin and Collins wife Gina and granddaughter Sofia, together with Martin's sister and brothers, Kaye, Denis, Greg, John and Pat and extended families, wish to express a sincere and heartfelt 'thank you' to all who supported them through this very difficult time and over the last few weeks since Martin's passing. We extend a sincere thank you to everyone who sympathised with us on our sad loss, those who attended the funeral service, those who travelled long distances to be with us and those who sent flowers, cards and messages of condolence.

A special word of thanks to the Medical Staff, Ambulance Staff, Hospital Staff and members of An Garda Síochána who attended to Martin at the time of his passing. A special thank you to Fr Young and Fr Sexton who, with other members of the Ministry Team celebrated the funeral mass and service. A special thank you to Kinsella Undertakers for their professionalism and kindness shown to all at this difficult time. Thank you to the Horse & Hound in Delgany for their catering and hospitality. We would like to say a very special thank you to the many friends (the Achill-ites) of Martin who shared the Achill Experience every year for the past 50 years and which Martin so loved and looked forward to each year. Also a very special thank you to Roisin & Michael Lavelle of Teach Cruachan, Achill with whom Martin lodged every year while on holidays and where he was treated like 'one of the family' and will be sadly missed. To the Management & Staff of Vicks Coffee Shop where Martin and his friends regularly enjoyed a morning coffee and chat. As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually please accept this acknowledgment as an expression of our sincere gratitude. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for the good intentions of all.

Martin's Month's Mind Mass will be celebrated on Sunday, 15th September 2024 at 12.00 midday in St Patrick's Church, Kilquade Hill, Kilquade, Co. Wicklow.

The youth club where young people can socialise without any peer pressure

It can be tough being a young person. Pressure from school, peer pressure, and the pressure to be many things to many people can be overwhelming. So, an organisation that allows young people to be themselves, in a safe, supervised environment, free from judgment and that encourages them to enjoy 'old school' activities like board games, discos, and chats over a cuppa, has got to be a good thing.

This is where No Name Club makes a difference. Founded in 1978, No Name Club is a national, voluntary youth organisation that aims to empower young people aged 15-18 by providing a fun, safe environment where they can socialise without the pressures of alcohol or drugs. With clubs all over Ireland, including one in Hollywood, Co. Wicklow, No Name Club plays a vital role in offering young people safe spaces where they can build confidence and social skills while avoiding some of the risks of peer pressure.

Dr. Garrett Keenaghan, Chairperson of No Name Club, said: "We know that it's crucial for young people to build confidence and self-esteem. No Name Club is more than just a social outlet - it's a place where young people can build confidence, learn new skills, and make lifelong friends."

No Name Club goes beyond just providing a hangout spot. By involving young people in the planning and running of events, the organisation helps them build confidence and leadership skills. Through its activities, No Name Club raises awareness about the effects of alcohol and drugs, empowering young

people to make informed choices. Membership fees are kept low to ensure that the club is accessible to all young people, offering them a supportive environ-

ment in which to thrive. No Name Club is always looking to establish new clubs around the country but needs volunteers who are willing to

help. As a volunteer-led organisation, No Name Club relies on the dedication of its volunteers, who work tirelessly to guide and mentor young mem-

bers. These volunteers are essential in creating the safe, welcoming environments that are central to the club's mission.

If you'd like to find out

more about establishing a No Name Club in your locality, or you'd like to find out more about your nearest club, contact <https://nonameclub.ie/>.



Pictured are Ann Richardson, Samantha Hogan and Deirdre Garry, volunteers with No Name Club in Hollywood, with John Williams, Edith Geraghty and Sean Twomey of No Name Club at the No Name Club Volunteer Conference this weekend in Portlaoise.

‘Govt failure to enact Marine Protected Areas Bill is endangering sharks and other species’

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore took to the seas last Thursday to join a groundbreaking research expedition aimed at establishing if great white sharks frequent Irish waters.



The Great White Shark - do they frequent Irish waters.

Deputy Whitmore, who is the Party's spokesperson on climate and biodiversity, has a background in ecology, marine science and environmental law. Before entering politics, she spent 10 years in Australia as a senior policy analyst, working with government ministers to develop environmental law, water management and energy policy. She also spent several years as a scientist with the Marine Institute.

The expedition was led by Dr Nick Payne, of TCD's School of Natural Sciences, and hosted by OCEARCH - a US shark research organisation. Deputy Whitmore

said: "I am excited to be joining this group of Irish shark scientists for this important expedition, which hopes to find out if great whites visit Irish waters. Experts say there every reason to believe that great white sharks may occasionally visit Irish waters and this important research will hopefully provide definitive confirmation of this.

"The expedition also presents a valuable opportunity to learn more about the 40 or so shark species that live in our seas - and about the threats these magnificent creatures face from climate change, exploitative fishing practices and habitat destruction.



Deputy Jennifer Whitmore aboard the research vessel last week.

"The sad reality is that scores of shark species in our waters are classified as endangered, critically endangered or vulnerable. We must do more to protect these amazing creatures - including enacting the Marine Protected Areas Bill. "Regrettably, the

Government has dithered and delayed when it comes to moving forward with this legislation, which is imperilling our ability to meet offshore wind energy targets and our obligation to protect 30 per cent of Ireland's seas by 2030. "The general scheme

of this legislation was first published in December 2022 and it beggars belief that nearly two years later, in the midst of a climate and biodiversity emergency, the Government has yet to enact such an important environmental measure."

‘Action needed to prevent future fish kills in County Wicklow’

Sinn Fein TD John Brady has expressed his concern at a recent report by Inland Fisheries detailing the large number fish kills recorded to have taken place across the state between 1969 and 2022. The report further revealed 82 large scale incidents of fish kill which have taken place in County Wicklow in that period, including a major one in Aughrim River in July of this year, where approx. 2,000 fish were killed. He called for immediate action to ensure that our rivers and lakes are protected from future fish kills.

Deputy Brady said: "The Inland Fisheries Report reveals Wicklow to be one of the worst areas in the state for fish kills. The majority of the 2107 fish kills across the state have taken place in rivers - some 81%. With a major kill in Wicklow in July, there have also been major kills in Sligo, Cork, and Dublin among others. Between 2023 and so far in 2024 19,000 fish have died in 30 recorded instances, among the fish list include Salmon, Trout, Eels and Lamprey.

"The causes of these fish kills are primarily avoidable, and in many instances are a result of criminal behaviour. The fact is that we live in a time of environmental

jeopardy, where we simply cannot allow these events to continue to occur. Just last month reports emerged indicating the death of wild deer due to potentially toxic water in a stream in Wicklow, although a wound to the deer suggests that this may have been a contributing factor. This followed an incident at the Delgany Pumping Station / Greystones wastewater treatment plant, where there was an overflow in late August.

"The state of the stream in question, the Three Trouts Stream in Delgany has become a matter of concern for locals and environmentalists. Who have noted the deteriorating levels of pollution which is degrading the water quality in the stream leading to significant insect kill, with locals also suspecting fish kills to have taken place in the area.

"Working with people in the area, I contacted Uisce Eireann who confirmed that an incident did take place at the plant on August 21st, when a pump failure led to an uncontrolled release into the Three Trouts Stream.

When I questioned them about the smell at the Delgany Priory Road Bridge, and at Charlesland, Uisce Eireann were unable to provide satisfactory answers, other than to say an assessment is under way.

"They have acknowledged that the plant does not possess the capacity to cope with future growth in the area, and that upgrades are needed before new properties can be connected. With the level and extent of new developments in the Delgany area this is a matter of major concern and represents another example of the failure of Simon Harris's coalition government to properly plan to accommodate for the population upsurge in Wicklow.

"It is not unacceptable that bodies such as Uisce Eireann respond to environmental emergencies by offering apologies. And while I welcome the announcement today that plans are to be introduced to lead to better protection and management of our rivers, this smacks of a political response to the scathing content of the recent report on fish kills. We need to see detailed plans and timelines with clear targets and strategies as to



Dead fish found in the Aughrim River in August.

how the government is going to reverse the damage that has been done to our waterways.

"The fact is that the Environmental Protection Agency have already reported earlier this summer that there has been no improvement in the water quality of our rivers, lakes or ground waters. A total of 34% of the 4,842 water bodies in the state

are regarded as being of risk of not meeting water quality targets. 46% of surface water are in a poor ecological state. The fact is that this government has failed to address the pollution of our rivers, lakes and waterways. We need to see a real and tangible plan of action from the government. A plan that includes stiff penalties for offenders."



Green Party TD Steven Matthews getting water samples.

‘Water Action Plan will help Wicklow’s rivers, lakes and coast’

Green TD Steven Matthews has welcomed the launch of the Water Action Plan by his colleague Minister for Nature Malcom Noonan. The plan has the three core aims to reduce and prevent pollution, to let more rivers run free and restore their natural ecosystem functions, and continue investment in water infrastructure.

Deputy Matthews has a special interest in water, having studied environmental management and undertaken water sampling around Co. Wicklow for many years.

Deputy Matthews said, "At the heart of this plan is community involvement. The measures in the plan to restore waterbodies will be implemented at a local level through Catchment Management Work Plans that will be co-created with local communities through a public participation process that will empower everyone to understand the challenges in their local area in Co. Wicklow and work to protect our rivers, lakes and coasts.

"While this work will be done at local level, the plan is a national policy, drawn to implement the EU Water Framework Directive, and the strongest yet. This tells us that all waterbodies in Ireland need to be of 'good' or 'excellent' status, these include surface waters like rivers, lakes, estuaries, canals and coastal waters, as well as groundwaters. Unfortunately, water quality is now on the decline. This Water Action Plan is therefore tough on governance, enforcement and accountability. It also sets out to protect against further deterioration in water quality. Given what we know about population growth, economic growth and widespread, rapid and intensifying climate change, it's crucial that we take action now. We are lucky enough to live in a stunning county like Wicklow and our lakes, rivers and coast are a huge part of its appeal. It is up to all of us to do as we can to protect the water quality, for the environment, for our health and also for amenity and tourism benefits."

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Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien, Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District, at the starting point of the Bray Camino.

Bray Camino goes international

Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien sees huge potential in the Camino Walk from Bray to St. James church in Dublin. In an event organised by the Spanish Ambassador Ion de la Riva and the Camino Society Ireland, Cllr O'Brien joined a group of walkers including Ambassadors from Brazil, Austria, Peru and Malta over two consecutive Saturdays in August to complete the walk.

Speaking about the experience Cllr O'Brien believes that there is huge potential for this official Camino walk.

"I wasn't aware that this walk counts as an official 25Km leg of the Camino. With a startpoint at the seafront plaza there is a wonderful coastal walk and then you hit the quays and work your way through the city to St. James church. The Camino has a huge international profile and attracts so

much interest from people of all walks of life who walk for so many different reasons.

"Walking with the Camino society members and the Ambassadors and their staff reminded me of how a very simple activity can generate so much meaningful connection. The opportunity to gain understanding and insight alongside the natural human connection while walking and talking is

humanity at its best in my humble view.

"I hope to see the potential for this walk flourishing in terms of how Bray can make the most of its connection to the Camino. I can picture young pilgrims in TY or Gaisce doing this walk, getting their stamps and then later on in life completing their Celtic Camino in the north of Spain feeling proud that it began in their home town. Check out the Camino Society Ireland for more info."



Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien, Spanish Ambassador Ion de la Riva, former Spanish Senator Manuel Miras Franqueira, Peruvian Ambassador Jaime Cacho-Sousa, Brazilian Ambassador Marcel Fortuna Biato and Chairperson of Camino Society Ireland Turlough O'Donnell.

Taoiseach encourages coffee hosts as he praises 'unseen work' of Hospices

Taoiseach Simon Harris paused for a cuppa in Wicklow as he encouraged people to host a Bewley's Big Coffee Morning for Hospice later this month. As he visited Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services in Magheramore, he met staff and patients, including nurses Niamh Fitzgerald, Anna Twamley and Dr Joan Cunningham, Consultant in Palliative Medicine.

He praised organisers which has raised more than €45million for hospice services across Ireland since 1992. This year's campaign, co-ordinated by

Together for Hospice, the National Hospice Movement, aims to raise

€2.4million for hospices nationwide.

Speaking about the campaign, the Taoiseach said: "Having turned the sod here at Wicklow Hospice as Health Minister in 2018, I am acutely aware of the tireless work hospices nationwide carry out to provide dignity, respect and compassion to end-of-life patients and their families.

"This often goes unseen, and I am asking everyone to host a coffee morning on September 26, or on a date that suits them. If you can't host, please attend or donate to one."

Wicklow Garda Station are calling on the community to join them for a very special 'Coffee with a Cop' Coffee Morning on Wednesday 11th September in the De La Salle Pastoral Centre in Wicklow Town. You are invited to sit down for a cuppa and a chat with mem-



Taoiseach Simon Harris pictured with Dr Joan Cunningham, Consultant in Palliative Medicine, on a visit to Wicklow Hospice.



Inspector Colm Corrigan, Superintendent Rory Sheriff and Garda Shauna Cline at the Big Coffee Morning for Hospice in Wicklow Town Garda Station.

bers of the force from 10.30am to 12.30pm, all in aid of Wicklow Hospice.

Rory Sheriff, Superintendent in Wicklow South West Community Engagement Area says, "I am acutely aware that every family at some stage in this County and indeed from North Wexford, will or have utilised the unbelievable services of the Wicklow Hospice. The care, attention and dedication given by the staff at the Hospice to their service users and families should never be taken for granted. It is a cause very close to me

and my colleagues in An Garda Síochána here in Wicklow and it is a pleasure to offer any assistance to this cause however small that may be. Hope to see ya for a cuppa on the 11th."

On the morning, there will also be a raffle with super prizes like afternoon tea in the 5 star Westbury Hotel, overnight breaks, wine hampers, vouchers and much more, so please do come along on the day! Like many organisations and individuals around the county, Wicklow Garda Station are getting behind this year's Bewley's Big

Coffee Morning for Hospice, an event that has been running for the past 32 years, raising millions in that time for local hospice services.

The official date for this nationwide Coffee Morning is September 26th - but supporters can host one on a date that suits them, with every cent raised locally going to their local Hospice.

To find out more or register to host a coffee morning and receive your free Bewley's Coffee visit hospicecoffeemorning.ie or call Allison Ryder in Wicklow Hospice on 01 4068868.

Nominations invited from Wicklow for National Heritage Week Awards

The Heritage Council has announced details of this year's National Heritage Week Awards, inviting nominations from all event organisers in Wicklow. Every year, the Heritage Council seeks nominations for individuals or groups of people who showcased successful heritage projects and hosted engaging events during the festival.

Among the nominees last year were Wicklow's Altidore Castle who were runners up in the Climate and Sustainability Award for their Woodland and Biodiversity Walk which encompassed a walking tour by the owner Philip Emmet and his son Thomas of the ancient and recently planted native woodland, the wildflower pastures and its biodiversity.

Event organisers, who must put themselves forward for consideration for an award, can submit nominations for the National Heritage Awards, before the deadline on Tuesday 24th of September 2024 (see www.heritageweek.ie/awards). Included in the award categories is a county award which recognises the best heritage project in each county. In 2023, the '200 Years of Ballyknockan - A Living History' won the Wicklow award for their guided tour of Ballyknockan by eighth generation stonecutters the O'Flaherty family. Ballyknockan is known as The Granite Village or The Skeleton of Dublin because of its role in



Altidore Castle were runners up in the Climate and Sustainability Award last year for their Woodland and Biodiversity Walk.

many of Ireland's historical buildings. This year's National Heritage Week Awards will comprise the county awards, as well as a number of special categories, namely:

Connections, Routes and Networks Award

The Connections, Routes and Networks Award is awarded to an event that made a special effort to incorporate the

2024 theme of National Heritage Week - Connections, Routes and Networks.

Wild Child Event Award

The Wild Child Event Award is awarded to an event that happened on Wild Child Day, 24th August 2024, that successfully encouraged children and families to get outdoors and explore the natural heritage and biodiversity in their locality.

Water Heritage Day Award (In conjunction with the Local Authority Waters Programme)

The Water Heritage Award is awarded to a Water Heritage Day event, held on 25th August 2024. Events considered include those that explored how a canal, river, lake or sea shaped the heritage of a locality or celebrated water as an integral part of our natural heritage.

Inclusive Heritage Award

The Inclusive Heritage Award is awarded to an event or project that made a special effort to share heritage with everyone in the community, including those who are:

- new to heritage
- those who do not have local roots
- those who have additional accessibility needs
- those of varying age categories

Irish Language Award

The Irish Language Award is awarded to an event that took place through the Irish Language and/or encouraged participation or activity in the Irish language.

Sustainability and Climate Award

The Sustainability and Climate Heritage Award is awarded to an event or project that made efforts to incorporate environmentally friendly practices to reduce our carbon footprint and impact on the natural world, or an event that provided education on the impact of climate change and good



Noel and Philis Curley at the History of the Military Road event in the Brockagh Centre in Laragh during Heritage Week.

sustainability practices.

Intangible Cultural Heritage Award - The Micheal O Muircheartaigh Award

The Intangible Cultural Heritage Award is awarded to an event or project that encouraged a greater appreciation of an element of our intangible cultural heritage - crafts, skills, customs and practices.

Heritage Hero Award

Every year the Heritage Council awards the Heritage Hero Award to an individual or organisa-

tion that has demonstrated a substantial period of time - an outstanding contribution to the protection and promotion of heritage. This award is based on nominations from the public.

County Award

In addition to the National Awards (above), the Heritage Council also gives a "County Award" to the best event or project in each local authority area as nominated. This award is based on how well the event or project raised awareness about an element of heritage and how they promoted the

event and involved the community.

All participants who successfully upload a heritage project on the National Heritage Week website by Tuesday 24th of September 2024 will be considered for a National Heritage Week Award. Projects will be assessed on the basis of their local reach and community engagement, educational value and the level to which they involve different age groups. The awards ceremony will take place on November 15th 2024 at the Irish Museum of Modern Art in Dublin.

Bray Institute of Further Education

bife EVENING CLASSES

DEDICATED | PROFESSIONAL | PASSIONATE

AUTUMN 2024 | SPRING 2025

ART, CRAFT & DESIGN

Art, Painting and Drawing	10 Weeks - Time: 7.00-9.30pm	Fee €125
Oil Painting	10 Weeks - Time: 7.30-9.30pm	Fee €140
Pottery/Ceramics Beginners	10 Weeks - Time: 5.00-7.00pm	Fee €175
Pottery/Ceramics Improvers	10 Weeks - Time: 7.00-9.00pm	Fee €175
Woodwork for Beginners	10 Weeks - Time: 7.30-9.30pm	Fee €175
Dressmaking	10 Weeks - Time: 7.00-9.00pm	Fee €125
Crochet	10 Weeks - Time: 7.30-9.30pm	Fee €125
Graphic Design	10 Weeks - Time: 7.00-9.00pm	Fee €130
Digital Photography	10 Weeks - Time: 7.30-9.30pm	Fee €130

LANGUAGES

Italian : Beginners	10 Weeks - Time: 7.00-8.30pm	Fee €100
Italian : Improvers	10 Weeks - Time: 8.30-10.00pm	Fee €100
French Beginners	10 Weeks - Time: 7.00-8.30pm	Fee €100
French Improvers	10 Weeks - Time: 8.30-10.00pm	Fee €100
Spanish Beginners	10 Weeks - Time: 7.00-8.30pm	Fee €100
Spanish Improvers	10 Weeks - Time: 8.30-10.00pm	Fee €100
German for Beginners	10 Weeks - Time: 7.00-8.30pm	Fee €100
Leaving Certificate Irish	10 Weeks - Time: 7.30-9.30pm	Fee €130
Conversational Irish 1 (Beginners-Intermediate)	10 Weeks - Time: 7.00-8.30pm	Fee €100
Conversational Irish 2 (Intermediate)	10 Weeks - Time: 8.30-10.00pm	Fee €100
English for Speakers of Other Languages	10 Weeks - Time: 7.00-8.30pm	Fee €100

HOLISTIC HEALTH

Pilates: 7.00 Class	10 Weeks - Time: 7.00-8.00pm	Fee €100
Pilates: 8.00 Class	10 Weeks - Time: 8.00-9.00pm	Fee €100
Tai Chi: 7.00 Class	10 Weeks - Time: 8.15-9.30pm	Fee €100
Tai Chi: 8.15 Class	10 Weeks - Time: 7.00-8.15pm	Fee €100
Yoga: Beginners	10 Weeks - Time: 7.00-8.15pm	Fee €85
Yoga : Beginners and Beginners Plus	10 Weeks - Time: 8.15-9.30pm	Fee €85

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Bridge Beginners	8 Weeks - Time: 7.00-9.00pm	Fee €130
Beekeeping For Beginners	9 Weeks - Time: 7.30-9.30pm	Fee €115
First Aid And Cardiac First Responder	10 Weeks - Time: 7.30-9.30pm	Fee €125
Computers Introduction (Hardware and Software)	10 Weeks - Time: 7.00-9.00pm	Fee €140

MUSIC & DANCE

Guitar Lessons	10 Weeks - Time: 7.00-9.00pm	Fee €130
Ukelele Lessons	10 Weeks - Time: 7.00-9.00pm	Fee €130
Latin Dancing for Beginners	10 Weeks - Time: 7.00-9.00pm	Fee €130

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New 'hysterically historical' children's book launched in Greystones



Bray author Alan Nolan

A new children's book by celebrated Irish author and Bray resident Alan Nolan is in all good bookstores now and was officially launched on Saturday 7th September at Halfway Up the Stairs Children's Bookshop, Greystones. The book is titled 'Molly Malone & Bram Stoker in the Riddle of the Disappearing Dickens'.

In the book, Bram Stoker, a boy seeking adventure (and things to write about) is best friends with Molly Malone, part-time fishmonger and full-time sneak legend.

Best friends Molly and Bram are on a mission in London. Famous writer Charles Dickens has been kidnapped! The pals set out to search the darkest corners of the city. On their travels, they meet all sorts of characters, among them a foul-mouthed fowl and a Worshipful Company of Fishmongers. Can they solve the riddle of the disappearing Dickens before it's too late?

Molly Malone & Bram Stoker in the Riddle of the Disappearing Dickens is the third book in Irish children's author Alan Nolan's

popular Molly & Bram series, following The Sackville Street Caper in 2022 and Double Trouble at the Dead Zoo in 2023. He also wrote a book for World Book Day 2024, Molly Malone & Bram Stoker in the Curious Case of the Irish Yeti, which (to Alan's astonishment and delight) went to #1 in the Irish Children's Book Chart last March, out-selling both of the 'Big Daves', David Walliams and Dav Pilkey.

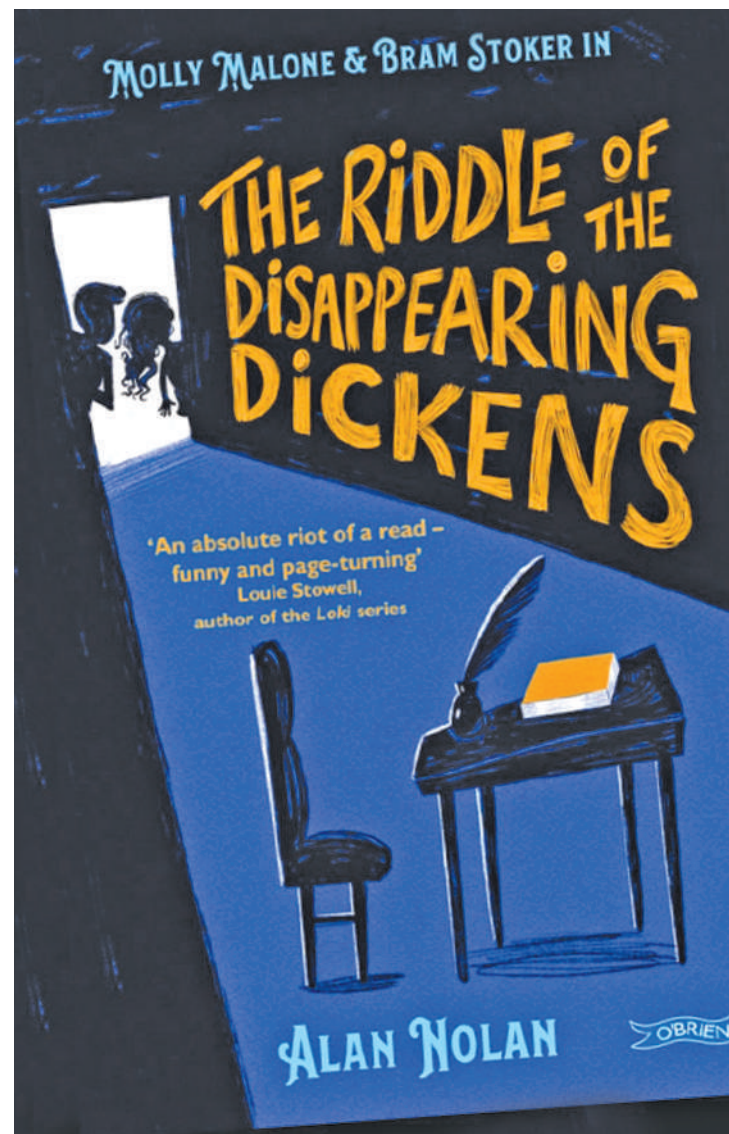
Molly Malone & Bram Stoker in the Riddle of the Disappearing is suitable for 8-12-year-olds and is published in Ireland by The O'Brien Press. It features a stunning cover and fabulous interior illustrations by Galway-based illustrator Shane Cluskey.

Alan Nolan is the author and illustrator of Fintan's Fifteen, Conor's Caveman and the Sam

Hannigan series of children's books, and he is the illustrator of the best-selling Gordon's Game books written by Gordon D'Arcy and Paul Howard, as well as Animal Crackers by Sarah Webb.

Alan runs illustration and writing workshops for children, as well as programming children's literary events for various county libraries. He also freelances as a graphic designer and illustrator (when he finds the time!)

Alan grew up in Windy Arbour, Dublin before moving to Bray, where he lives with his wife, his three boys and a rescue dog called Lily.



Alan Nolan's new book.

The West Wicklow Festival returns for a winter weekend experience

The West Wicklow Festival is thrilled to unveil its Winter Weekend programme, offering a series of enchanting concerts from November 14th to 17th, 2024. This seasonal edition of the festival will bring together world-class musicians for unforgettable performances in the luxurious Manor House at Tulfarris Hotel & Golf Resort, promising a delightful experience for all music enthusiasts.

The Winter Weekend programme commences on Thursday 14th November at 8pm with Irish violinist Patrick Rafter and festival founder / pianist Fiachra Garvey, to celebrate the launch of their debut album with Rubicon Classics. This much-loved duo will perform a captivating programme beginning with the poignant Poème élégiaque by Ysaÿe, inspired by

Shakespeare's tragic love story, Romeo and Juliet, and dedicated to Faure, a work which Ysaÿe himself stated was evidence of my desire to link music and virtuosity. The connection to Faure continues with Ravel's Sonata No. 2 in G major. Having studied composition with Faure, this sonata is hugely influenced by Ravel's love of American jazz and blues

music. The second half comprises Leken's gargantuan Sonata in G major, a tour de force, full of energetic bursts of passion and dramatic climaxes. The duo will sign copies of their new release following the performance.

The Winter Weekend will continue on Friday 15th November with a mesmerising concert featuring Irish clarinettist Carol

McGonnell, English violinist Tamsin Waley-Cohen, and pianist Fiachra Garvey. The trio's programme will include the evocative and folk-inspired Trio for clarinet, violin, and piano by Khachaturian, followed by Stravinsky's dynamic L'Histoire du soldat, inspired by the Russian tale of The Runaway Soldier and the Devil, and Milhaud's spirited Suite

Op.157b, written for the stage play The Traveller Without Baggage.

This concert will also proudly include a new festival commission by the acclaimed Irish composer and video-game music sensation Eimear Noone, to commemorate the West Wicklow-born ballet icon Ninette de Valois. "For several years now I have wanted to commission a work to pay tribute to one of the greatest cultural icons from West Wicklow, Dame Ninette de Valois. A pioneer in so many respects, one of her greatest legacies was the establishment of the Royal Ballet. Born locally at Baltyboys House as Edris Stannus, Ninette's story is one of great adventure! When I was contemplating a composer to approach with regards to writing this new commission, I immediately thought of Eimear Noone, particularly due to her close connection to the LA Ballet for many years. (Fiachra Garvey, festival founder and artistic director). Concluding this concert will be Bartok's vibrant Contrasts Sz.111, written for the American clarinettist Benny Goodman (a.k.a. "The King of Swing").

The music continues on Saturday 16th November at 12 noon with a Rising Stars Concert that will showcase the extraordinary talents of South Korean violinist Jisun Min and Latvian pianist Didzis Kalnins. The dynamic duo will present a stunning programme including Stravinsky's ballet-inspired Suite Italienne, Mendelssohn's lyrical Sonata in F major and Ravel's fiery Tzigane. Min and Kalnins will also perform an exciting world premiere of the winning composition from the West Wicklow Festival's Composition Competition, in partnership with the Contemporary Music Centre.

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On Saturday evening the acclaimed French piano trio, Trio Talweg, present a compelling programme starting with Britten's French-influenced Introduction and Allegro, Schumann's most celebrated and intensely romantic Piano Trio No.1 in D minor, Op.63, Irish composer Gerald Barry's uniquely vivacious and rhythmic Triorchic Blues, and finishing with Ravel's exquisite Piano Trio in A minor, M. 67, arguably the most loved of all piano trios. Trio Talweg's pianist Romain Descharmes makes a welcome return to Ireland, following his success as 1st prizewinner of the 2006 AXA Dublin International Piano Competition.

The Winter Weekend concludes with an exquisite

Sunday afternoon recital featuring Irish star soprano Anna Devin and pianist Fiachra Garvey. The wide-ranging programme will include songs and solo piano works by Chausson, Debussy, Ravel, Grieg, Gershwin, and Korngold. Two particular highlights will be Ravel's exotic interpretation of Sheherazade (the heroine of A Thousand and One Nights) and the roar of American jazz in Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue for solo piano.

Artistic Director Fiachra Garvey commented, "We are delighted to present this year's Winter Weekend programme, which offers a rich and diverse selection of performances by outstanding musicians. The Winter Weekend is a celebration of the beauty and warmth of chamber music, set in the charming and festive atmosphere of West Wicklow. A special thank you to the management and all the staff at Tulfarris for making us feel so welcome. We hope you enjoy your experience at the concerts, as well as the wonderful facilities the hotel has to offer!"

In addition to celebrating world-class performances, the West Wicklow Festival is committed to expanding its education and outreach programmes, making music more accessible to the wider community. We are thrilled to announce a new partnership with Baltinglass

Further Education and Training Centre and Music Generation Wicklow to launch a 10-week course in Adult Music Appreciation and Education, running from September to November. This initiative responds to the increasing demand for adult music education, particularly among early school leavers.

This inclusive programme is designed to deepen community engagement with music education. Participants will explore the fundamentals of music under the guidance of local tutor Niall Hughes and benefit from masterclasses in songwriting and choral skills led by two distinguished guest artists. These sessions will illustrate how music can serve as a powerful tool for social engagement, from supporting underrepresented composers to advocating for climate action. Additionally, the course will emphasise the transferable skills gained through music education, such as creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking. Participants will showcase their experiences and learnings in a coffee concert on Sunday, 17th November, the final day of the Winter Weekend Festival.

Tickets (€10-€35 +bkg fee) for the West Wicklow Chamber Music Festival's concerts are now on sale from www.westwicklowfestival.com.



Joan Power and Alex Bramley-McMahon at the History of the Military Road event held in the Brockagh Centre in Laragh during Heritage Week.

Applications now open for the 2025 Strategic Projects Awards

Wicklow County Council Arts Office is pleased to announce that the application window for the 2025 Strategic Projects Awards is now open, and will close at 4pm on Friday 13th September 2024.

The Arts Office invites submissions to this annual funding stream for the arts. The Strategic Projects Award Scheme is open to artists, national resource organisations, individual curators, and / or artist collectives. Applications should focus on nurturing practice, enhancing connectivity, generating new perspectives

and cultivating new voices within County Wicklow.

Two funding streams are being made available under the scheme for initiatives which will take place in 2025. Stream A is for new applicants and proposals, and Stream B is for consolidation / development of strategic projects previously awarded

under this scheme.

Applicants must apply through the Arts Office's online platform eSubmittable, where applicants can complete the online application form and upload all supporting materials. The 'Submittable' platform works best on Google Chrome, Firefox, and Safari. Internet Explorer is not supported. The application form can be accessed here: <https://wicklowcountycouncil.submittable.com/submit>

Applicants are strongly recommended to test the process prior to the closing date, so that if necessary, technical support can be provided as late and or incomplete applications cannot be considered.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Cllr. Paul O'Brien commented on the scheme, "It is wonderful to see the investment being offered to artists to develop creative ideas which create connection in the county and bring ideas to life."

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Emer O'Gorman said, "Wicklow County Council provides this award with a maximum of €15,000 available to successful applicants. It allows the development of ambitious new work and creative engagement with citizens of our county."

Questions relating to the application process may be directed to: wicklowarts@wctcl.ie.



Kate Strain, 2024 Strategic Project Recipient from Kunstverein, Aughrim, County Wicklow. Photo by Denis Mortell, courtesy of Kate Strain.

Experimental music & cinema event in Baltinglass

Fatima Hall, 8pm, Friday 20th of September

Secret Sonic Cinematheque, founded in 2016 is, as the name suggests, an experimental musical cinema event. They present short films and excerpts from films with live scores that are composed, part-composed or totally improvised by their core musician-composers with guests. For Culture Night they will be performing in Fatima Hall in Baltinglass.

"We work wherever possible with a local musician / composer to create a unique ensemble for the particular event," they explain.

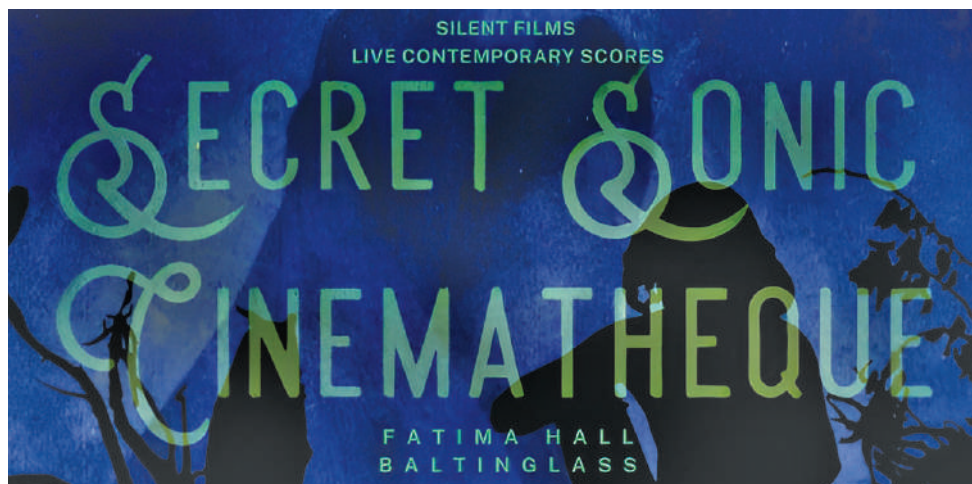
"Each composer chooses a film and comes up with a soundtrack idea to be realised by the group. There are also surprise films that are chosen with the help of the audience to which the group has to respond, sight-unseen. We also like to source interesting local films of any description, be they archival or experimental, which also helps to make the show as site-specific as possible.

"The instrumentation is always an eccentric, eclectic collection of electronics, instruments and household

objects that create an ever-changing palette of sonic wonder."

Band leaders Andrew Mooney and Diarmuid MacDiarmada will be joined by guest Wicklow musician Chris Con. Andrew Edgar, the master of ceremonies and projectionist, is busy digging out and dusting off films to suit the theme for the night 'Heavenly Bodies'.

Free admission, book your place to avoid disappointment at ticketpass.org/event/EUPECA/secret-sonic-cinematheque-culture-night-2024-heavenly-bodies



Liv Monaghan unveils new music video for 'Alltar' shot in Glendalough

Liv Monaghan, Paris-based Irish singer-songwriter, proudly presents the music video for 'Alltar', a deeply evocative song composed in both English and Irish. The video, released on 6th September, was created by videographer Tim Shearwood and was filmed amidst the ancient and mystical landscape of Glendalough.

'Alltar' draws inspiration from the book 32 Words for Field by Manchan Magan, a work that explores the deep connection between the Irish language and the natural world. The song blends both languages, creating a narrative that reflects on the themes of heritage, nature, and identity.

Tim Shearwood's black-and-white visuals complement the song's haunting melody, capturing the raw beauty of Glendalough.

"The song and video are a tribute to the richness of the Irish language and its deep ties to the land. It's a song I wrote with displaced people in mind and how the spirit of everything is eternal."

'Alltar' is a standout track on Liv's recently released album First Light. Fans of Liv's unique blend of jazz, folk, and pop will find themselves captivated by the fusion of music, language, and visual storytelling. The music video for 'Alltar' will be released on YouTube on September 6th.

Liv Monaghan is an Irish singer-songwriter known for her evocative voice and unique blend of jazz, folk, and pop. Her latest album, First Light, has been praised internationally for its emotional depth, vocal agility and elegant arrangement.

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The Natural History museum closed its doors to the public lastweekend to commence a full refurbishment project. The building has changed very little in the last 168 years and a full refurbishment is necessary to ensure that the building is protected, conserved, and made accessible for future generations. A new 'Dead Zoo Lab' is planned for the Museum's Collins Barracks site, where visitors will be able to see some of the Natural History collection while the NMI - Natural History building is closed.

The Shaking Bog Festival

The acclaimed Shaking Festival, Where Art & Nature Meet, is fast approaching, taking place in Enniskerry and the Glencree Valley on the 14th & 15th September.

The festival features some of the world's most respected names in art and nature who are coming to speak and perform in this picturesque part of the Garden of Ireland. Some upcoming highlights include; extraordinary folk singer and Mercury Prize nominee Sam Lee, one of the world's most accomplished fiddle players - and part of the acclaimed, The Gloaming - Caoimhin O Rathallaigh, the mesmerising and entertaining chronicler of the sea Philip Hoare and one of Ireland's most beloved poets Paula Meehan.

Alongside this stellar artistic line-up are a number of exciting and informative talks, trails and workshops about the natural world with some of Ireland's foremost experts.

The Shaking Bog is local in spirit but international in aspiration. It is an inspired and inspiring festival that sits on the seam between art and nature where alchemy happens and hope resides.

Once Off Productions presents: Afterwards by Janet Moran

Mermaid Arts Centre, Wednesday 18th & Thursday 19th September. 8pm. Tickets: €22/20

Three women in the immediate aftermath of a life changing choice. Set in the recovery ward of an abortion clinic in the UK, two Irish Women - one a married mother of three, the other, an eighteen year old on her first foray out of Ireland - and a young English solicitor spend a disorienting night together as they wait for morning.

Revelations, arguments, and silly songs take them to dawn as they look into a transformed future. Outside, the world keeps turning.

Afterwards is a timely new play exploring the consequences of Repeal the 8th, a culture-changing movement, while resonating internationally with the current turmoil surrounding reproductive rights worldwide. Book through mermaidartscentre.ie or phone Box Office on 01 272 4030 (Monday - Saturday 11am - 4pm. Suitable for 14+ years.



Niamh Beatrix Smith releases debut solo single

13 year old nicknamed 'Little Adele'

Young singer-songwriter Niamh Beatrix Smith from Roundwood has released her debut solo single. Titled 'Irish Lad', it's available now on all major platforms and a music video is available to view on YouTube.

The fresh, upbeat pop anthem is packed with catchy hooks and a playful nod to Ed Sheeran, as it tells the story of young love blossoming for an Irish lad. With vibes that'll remind you of Meghan Trainor's infectious energy, Irish Lad, which Niamh wrote and composed herself, is a perfect showcase for the 13-year-old who's ready to take the pop world by storm.

Niamh, originlly from South Africa, has been making a name for herself in the music scene over the past several years.

In 2022, she represented Ireland at the International Performing Arts Cup in South Africa, where she won six gold medals. Last year she was a Junior Eurovision finalist (finishing in the top 3 in the country) and also released a charity Christmas song - a cover version of Sow Patrol's Chasing Cars, for the Make-A-Wish Ireland.

So far, Irish Lad has been played and/or playlisted on RTE Radio One. RTE 2XM, Beat, FM104 and East Coast FM, and some of Ireland's top wedding DJs have been playing it at weddings around the country.

Since its August 26th release it's been streamed over 5,000 times on YouTube and Spotify.



Niamh Beatrix Smith

The Language of Memory

An Exhibition By 21 Degrees West Group

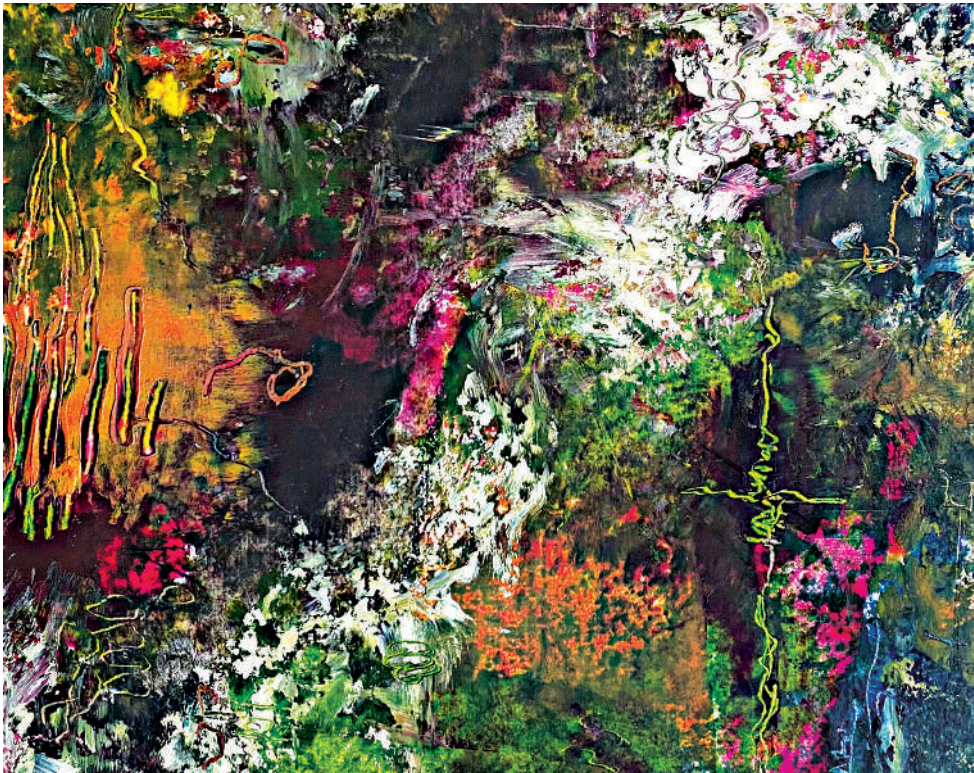
Signal Arts Centre, Monday 16th September to Sunday 29th September

“The Language of Memory” is an exhibition based completely on the landscape in which the artists have immersed themselves. The land contains both history and mystery. Knowledge of place is the underpinning of self-knowledge. Our exploration of cultural memory over two continents reveals an unspooling and decoding of what has come before.

21°W seeks to exhibit artwork that is based on each artist's inspiration and interpretation of the landscape around them with attention to wisdom of the land - past and present. The work will include a variety of media including cold wax medium, oil, acrylic and fibre.

Artists: Hilary Elmes (Deceased), Clare Jorgensen, Fidelma O'Neill, Paula O' Riordan

All Welcome! Opening Reception: Sunday 22nd September, 3pm to 5pm



'So Near So Far' by Fidelma O'Neill.

Pat Shortt & Mike Hanrahan: Songs of Ireland

Whale Theatre, Friday 13th September, 8pm (doors 7pm). **SOLD OUT** but register for returns at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550.

On the back of Pat Shortt and Mike Hanrahan's very well received TV series "Songs of Ireland", recently aired on RTE 1.

The show sees the pair take a musical road trip around the island of Ireland combining the richness of Irish music, culture and the camaraderie of shared stories. Now Pat and Mike have decided to take a live show throughout a limited number of venues in Ireland.

The show will feature the two musicians taking an eclectic musical tour through the nation's most beloved songs, putting their own twist on each of these prolific songs which have survived through the decades.

In some of the most intimate and iconic venues in Ireland, this limited tour is guaranteed to be a night of good music, chat and laughter.



Bernard O'Shea, the 'Desperate House Husband,' invites you on a hilarious escapade into the stay-at-home parenting world, in the Whale Theatre on Saturday 14th September. Brace yourself for comical tales of domestic appliances with sinister intentions, yearning for a peaceful night's rest, and even covert playground reconnaissance operations. It's a laugh-out-loud journey through the trials and tribulations of modern family life! 8pm (doors 7pm). **SOLD OUT** but register for returns at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550.

Calling all budding Wicklow photographers and young artists

Cameras and canvases at the ready - get creative for a good cause!

It was smiles all round and poses galore as the 2025 Hereford Charity Photo and Calendar Competition, in association with Irish Hereford Prime and the Irish Hereford Breed Society, was launched by former Irish Rugby star and Leinster Rugby Coach, Sean O'Brien, with the help of an adorable right-hand man - his four-month-old son Jack.

The daddy/son duo looked right at home on the farm, surrounded by Sean's Hereford animals, making it the perfect spot to set the wheels in motion for the fifth annual charity calendar competition, which encourages budding artists and photographers to enter their most creative work in the hopes of seeing it published in the calendar and winning a cash prize.

For the second year running, Children's Health Foundation has been chosen as the charity partner for this calendar. This worthy cause, which is instrumental in providing support to sick children and their families, will receive all proceeds raised from the sale of the calendar.

Speaking at the launch, Sean - who welcomed baby Jack earlier this year along with his partner, Eloise Selley - commented on the added poignance of working with Children's Health Foundation once again.

"I've always been blown away by the amazing work carried out by

Children's Health Foundation but now that I'm a father myself, the respect I have for what they do has reached new levels. The love you feel for your child, and that in-built need to protect them, is like nothing I've experienced before, and seeing how the wonderful team in Children's Health Ireland at Crumlin understand this and provide empathy and support to parents and children in their care, is so touching."

He added: "Jack is too small yet to enter the competition, but I'm sure he'll be delighted to look at all the fabulous entries that will no doubt come flooding in! I hope the amazing work of our charity partner will serve as inspiration to anyone thinking of entering, and that they put their creativity to great use in support of such a worthy cause."

Also present at the launch were Corporate Executives from Children's Health Foundation, Alannah Butler and Emma Callinan, who shared their enthusiasm over partnering up with

Irish Hereford Prime and the Irish Hereford Breed Society for another fundraising drive. "We were delighted to get the call informing us that we were the chosen charity partner for the second year in a row," Alannah said. "Last year's calendar raised close to €10,000 for Children's Health Foundation, and donations like these help us to provide every sick child with everything they need to fight illness and injury."

Emma added, "The entries we saw in 2023 were really impressive, and there were some truly stand-out images that caught everyone's eye. I'm looking forward to seeing if the standard can get even higher this year, and I'd like to say a huge 'thank you' in advance to anyone who enters and donates through the purchase of the calendar. Your support means so much to a lot of people."

This year's competition will see the return of the popular 'Creative Calves' category, which is open to children and teens aged



Irish Hereford Prime and the Irish Hereford Breed Society are excited to launch their fifth annual Hereford Charity Photo and Calendar Competition. The competition, which was officially launched by former Irish rugby star and Irish Hereford Prime member Sean O'Brien, along with his super cute assistant Jack, encourages budding artists and photographers to see their work published and to be in with the chance of scooping a cash prize.

16 and under. Entrants to this category are invited to tap into their creative side by drawing, painting or sketching a Hereford animal. Given the amount of talent seen in this category alone during the 2024 calendar competition, the bar has been set very high for this year's budding artists!

There are three additional categories in the competition, which will

be of interest to those with an eye for capturing a magic moment. These are:

- Herefords - The Natural Choice - Pedigree Hereford animals - all cows, heifers, bulls, calves accepted.
- The HEX Factor - Hereford cross cattle (male or female) in their natural environment.
- Hereford: An Environmentally Sustainable Breed - This category

calls for the best photo showcasing how our Hereford farmers care for the environment and make significant contributions to biodiversity and sustainability.

This competition is now open for entry, with images uploaded via www.irishherefordprime.com/crumlin-charity-calendar accepted until midnight on Friday 13th September. An independent judge will shortlist the submitted entries in each category and following this, the shortlisted photos will be up for public vote online from Friday 20th September 2024 until midnight on Sunday 29th September 2024. The overall competition winner will receive an impressive cash prize of €500, while first and second place in each category will be awarded with

€250 and €150 vouchers respectively. Winners will be announced in October, with the much sought-after charity calendar due to go on sale in November - the perfect Christmas stocking filler purchase!

For more information and full competition terms and conditions, please visit www.irishherefordprime.com/crumlin-charity-calendar.



Some of the new Junior Infants at Scoil San Eoin in Redcross, with teacher Ms Nuzum.

Bray charity shop calls for public to support Life With No Limits Campaign

Enable Ireland's 'Life With No Limits' Campaign returns, inviting Bray residents to celebrate Life With No Limit champions and support vital services for people with disabilities

Enable Ireland's 'Life With No Limits' campaign takes place in September each year. It provides a platform for children and adults with disabilities who use Enable Ireland services to share their life experiences. The campaign also aims to raise much-needed funds to support the charity's work.

Bray residents can support the campaign by making a purchase in the Enable Ireland shop on 29 Main Street, Bray. Alternatively, they can drop a bag of quality pre-loved items into the shop or an Enable Ireland Clothes bank.

Jer O'Connor is one of Enable Ireland's 2024 Life With No Limits Champions. Jer attends Enable Ireland Adult Services. At the age of 18, he was diagnosed with Friedrich's ataxia (FRIDA), a genetic, progressive movement disorder. Since then he has embarked on some incredible physical adventures. Adventures which have taken him soaring through the sky (he's jumped out of a plane ñ twice) Jer has also been diving to great depths in the ocean, despite having had a life-long fear of water.

"When I was young, I was terrified of the water. I remember going to the beach with my family. Even trying to dip my toes in the water gave me motion sickness. After I was diagnosed, I spent a long time putting off certain things. However, I realised that my condition was getting worse and that my time was becoming limited to do the

things I wanted to do in life. I wanted to try and conquer my fears and not let anything hold me back. I told Conagh, my key worker at Enable Ireland services, about my phobia of water. She introduced me to Passion of Diving by taking me to one of their open days. They are a voluntary organisation that specialises in making scuba diving accessible to everyone. That's when I decided I wanted to overcome my fear and achieve a diving certification.

"My first day of training with Passion of Diving, I was so afraid. But the team there are amazing. They didn't force me to do anything I didn't want to. I was slowly introduced to the water and got familiar with the equipment. Passion of Diving were very methodical and good at slowly building your confidence. Now I trust them with my life. However, back then, my fear was getting the better of me. But on the third day, something clicked in me. I realised that I was in no danger. I was surrounded by scuba diving instructors who would quickly pull me up if anything went wrong. I found that the fears which were limiting me were all in my head.

It was so freeing to have conquered my fears and be able to dive. I don't feel disabled when I am under the water. It's like my disability fades away. "To achieve the practical part of my qualification, I was fortunate to take a trip to Egypt and go diving in the Red Sea. We went for a week and spent



Jer O'Connor who had a phobia of water achieved a scuba diving qualification diving in the Red Sea.

four days diving. 20 people of mixed abilities went from Passion of Diving and they are the some of the best people I've met in my life. It was a scary transition going from a still pool to the open sea where you can be thrown around by the waves. However, having my friends from Passion of Diving around me boosted my confidence. I reminded myself of my training and I was able to push those fears aside. The diving was stunning. Being among the corals, the fish and the different sea life was beautiful.

"I would love to get more people with a disability interested in scuba diving, simply for the freeing feeling it gives you. I've learnt it's important to be open to new opportunities in life and to not let fears or self-doubts restrict you. As well as scuba diving, I try to go skydiving at least once a year. There's a great sense of exhilaration and freedom to do something where your disability is not a factor. When the parachute opens you get to see the world from a different perspective. It's made me realise how

small my problems are. I'm very proud of myself for taking on these challenges."

Read Jer's full story at www.enableireland.ie/JersStory. Enable Ireland provides vital therapy and support services for over 13,000 children and adults with disabilities. Their services for children with disabilities and their families cover all aspects of a child's physical, educational, and social development from early infancy through adolescence. For adults, they offer a range of services which include day-care, training, personal development, supported and independent living, and social and leisure activities.

Donal Kitt, Enable Ireland National Fundraising Manager comments on the campaign: "Life With No Limits is a pivotal campaign in the Enable Ireland calendar. It helps to provide a platform for children and adults who use our services to share their stories. By spotlighting the lived experiences of people with disabilities the campaign raises awareness and helps support inclusion. It is also crucial in raising funds for Enable Ireland's services. You can show your support by donating to one of our charity shops or online at www.enableireland.ie. Now more than ever we need your help to raise funds. Please support our vital services for children and adults with disabilities."

Every year, Enable Ireland needs over €2

million in additional funding to meet the costs of delivering their services. The additional income generated from Enable Ireland's shops and fundraising is crucial. Without it, the charity would not be able to meet the needs of the children and their families relying on Enable Ireland services.

Support the 'Enable Ireland Life With No Limits' campaign this September by making a purchase in one of their charity shops or donating online at www.enableireland.ie. The public can also support Enable Ireland by giving to volunteers collecting for the charity throughout the month. Or drop a bag of quality pre-loved items into their local Enable Ireland shop or clothing bank or into any TK Maxx store nationwide as part of their Give Up Clothes For Good campaign.



WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Stephen and Cathy Pearson seek retention permission for:

Existing dwelling and garage as built contrary to approved designs as granted under planning reference 94532 at The Fallows, Ashtown Lane, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow A98 AK57.

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.

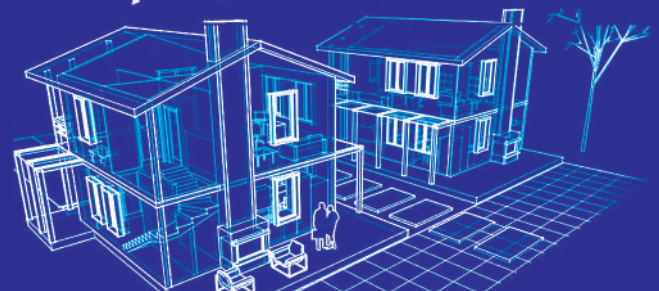
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, Brian & Samantha Larkin, intend to apply for Planning permission & Retention permission for development at 4 Beechdale Court, Beachdale, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow. The development will consist of the construction of two new bay windows with "apex" style roofs to front of the existing detached dwelling, existing external brick finish to be replaced with new external insulation with rendered wall finish. Existing front door to be removed and slightly relocated, replaced with new front door and side glazed screens, construction of new single storey en-suite rear extension, to match existing single storey rear extension, minor external side elevation alterations, incorporating minor internal alterations on existing ground floor level. new attic flat roof dormer style conversion, to rear of existing detached dwelling, incorporating new toilet and extended bedroom areas to existing dormer attic level. Retention permission is sought for existing single storey sloped roofed building (385sqm) in existing rear garden and associated site 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 Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, County 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 the receipt by the authority of the application.

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Wicklow-based retailer named as Finalist in Merchant Services Retail Excellence National Awards

Wardrobe Plus in Ashford House has today been named as a finalist in the AIB Merchant Services Retail Excellence National Awards 2024.

In total, 30 store finalists from around the country have been named. These finalists will be vying to be crowned Ireland's 'National Retailer of the Year for 2024'. The overall winner will be announced on November 2nd in the Galmont Hotel, Galway.

In addition to the store finalists, Retail Excellence is also announcing the Top 5 Independent Store of the Year finalists today.

The Store of the Year competition is the central part of the AIBMS Retail Excellence Awards, which were established in 1997 to promote best practice and encourage the highest standards in the Irish retail industry. They are now the largest and most

prestigious of their kind in Ireland. Former 'National Retailer of the Year' winners include Brown Thomas, Applegreen, Arboretum, Guinness Store House, Fabiani and PetStop.

Commenting on the announcement, Jean McCabe, CEO of Retail Excellence, said: "I am delighted to announce the finalists for these national awards. We are experiencing a particularly tough trading environment at present and as such we must celebrate the positives even more so now. Even though there are just 35 finalists announced today, the reality is that the entire industry is working so hard and we are proud to be there to support them in every way we can."

Wicklow's Deirdre Doyle completes ACORN programme

CLASSIFIEDS

THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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

Wicklow's Deirdre Doyle, founder of The Cool Food School, has successfully completed the ACORNS Plus programme, which is a follow-on initiative to ACORNS, the highly-successful development programme to support early-stage female entrepreneurs living in rural Ireland.



Deirdre Doyle.

And she is encouraging other females in Co. Wicklow to apply for the next cycle of the free business development programme, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.

ACORNS has been providing a decade of support for female entrepreneurship in rural Ireland and has recently launched the 10th cycle of the business development programme. The free initiative for early-stage female entrepreneurs is funded through the Rural Innovation and Development Fund by the



Paula Cooke and Muriel Norse at the Newcastle Parish Summer Festival at St. Francis National School.

Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine (DAFM).

The deadline for applications for this special 10th anniversary cycle is midnight, September 20th. There are up to 50 places available for ACORNS 10. Those wishing to receive an application form should register on the

website (www.acorns.ie). Deirdre Doyle is the founder of The Cool Food School, which is based in Greystones, and was originally on the 4th cycle of the ACORNS programme. She returned to ACORNS during the 9th cycle to take part in its follow-on initiative, called ACORNS Plus.

ACORNS is based on

the belief that early-stage entrepreneurs learn best from their peers. Participants interact with each other in the monthly round table sessions,

which are facilitated by a Lead Entrepreneur, who has first-hand experience of starting and successfully growing a business in rural Ireland.

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