

LOCAL Wicklow Times

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Tuesday 11th March 2025 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2069111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

MORE GARDAI NEEDED

An escalating number of crimes are being committed by individuals on bail, particularly within the Wicklow/Wexford Garda Division, at a time when Gardaí numbers in the Division are falling.

Between 2021 and 2024, the number of Gardaí in the Wicklow-Wexford Division fell from 637 to 617 and there are now only nine Community Gardaí for the entirety of Wicklow.

Meanwhile, recent figures reveal that in 2024 alone, suspects on bail were implicated in 1,404 offenses in this division, marking a staggering increase of 308 incidents compared to 2022. Over the past three years, the total has

reached 3,791 such crimes in the region.

Speaking in the Dáil last week, Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore raised serious concerns about the shortage of Community Gardaí in Wicklow. She has called on the Minister for Justice and the Garda Commissioner to address the backlog in Garda vetting and to prioritise community safety.

"Community Gardaí play a crucial role

in crime prevention through the relationships that they build in the community and the partnerships they develop with local groups," she said.

"This proactive approach to policing also allows them to identify issues before they arise. Strong relationships and community trust is essential for reducing both the fear of crime and crime itself. The visibility of Gardaí on streets and



Alice Ní Dheoiráin, Darcy Ní Dhúill and Robyn Ní Fhaoláin celebrating World Book Day last Thursday at Gelscoil an Inbhir Mhóir in Arklow. Pic: Michael Kelly

their engagement with local residents contribute significantly to a feeling of safety.

"However, there simply aren't enough of them. There are only nine Community Gardaí in the entirety of Wicklow, for 156,000 people - that's one Community Garda per 17,000 people. They are under resourced, they are under-staffed, and they are being stretched too thinly, and that's not just a Community Gardaí problem, it's a problem across an Garda Síochána.

"Another major issue is the current backlog in Garda vetting which is severely affecting community safety. Qualified candidates are stuck in the vetting process, preventing them from beginning their training. Some candidates are waiting up to a year for their

vetting to go through, and some are dropping out during this wait. This bureaucratic delay contributes to a gap in Garda resources, leaving communities vulnerable and under-staffed.

"Last year, there was a 10% increase in burglaries, and there has been a spike in vehicle thefts and property crimes. In areas like Rathnew, vehicle thefts have increased, with cars, scooters, and motorbikes becoming prime targets for criminals. These incidents highlight the growing concerns about crime levels and the perceived lack of adequate policing in the area.

"Rural areas are seeing an increase in farm-related crimes, including the theft of farm machinery, livestock, and tools. Over 50% of farmers have been victims of theft and nearly

1/3 of them have not reported this theft to the Gardaí.

"There are also huge issues in some rural communities with drug-

related crime and drug trafficking.

Continued on page 5



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 **THE LEFT**

Bray Choral Society Auction Night

Bray Choral Society is holding an exciting Auction Night in the Greystones Rugby Club on Friday 4th April. Doors open 6:45 for viewing, auction starts at 7:30. We are delighted to have guest MC Derek Mooney and auctioneer Brian Clarke of Clarke Auctioneers, Ashford. Superior lots include flying lesson, golf vouchers, hardwood logs, Burren weekend, 7 nights in luxurious apartment in Nice, paintings, tapestry, Mondello Park passes, vouchers from many retailers. Come and help us fundraise for our 40th Anniversary this year, concerts on Saturday 24th May in St. Andrew's Church, Westland Row, and Sunday 25th in Holy Redeemer Church in Bray. More details at www.braychoralsociety.ie.

Soup & sandwiches

The next Soup & Sandwiches lunch will be served up on Tuesday, 18th March from 12.30 until 2.00 in St. Patrick's Church, Greystones. Do visit to try out the tasty treats and enjoy the chat. Everyone welcome. Suggested donation of €7 for local charities.

The real St. Patrick

Dr. Patrick Wadden, history professor at Belmont Abbey College, USA, will present his talk on 'The Real St. Patrick: Separating the Man from legend' in Wicklow Town Branch Library, The Mall, Main Street, Wicklow Town, at 7 p.m. on Thursday March 13th.

In his talk Dr. Wadden will be looking at some common myths and legends associated with St. Patrick. Who was St. Patrick? What did he actually do? How do we know?

Dr. Wadden will discuss some of the legends associated with our patron saint before focussing on what we really know about him.

Admission is free and no booking is required - just turn up on the evening.

'Grangegorman - The Transportation Story'

There will be a local history talk with Joan Kavanagh on 20th March at 7pm in Wicklow Town Library Branch.

The first all-female prison in the British Isles was opened in 1836 at Grangegorman in Dublin. A section of this prison was set aside to hold female convicts sentenced to transportation prior to being shipped to the penal colonies of Australia.

A project, under the auspices of Grangegorman Histories, is examining the lives of the women held there. Who were these women? What crimes did they commit? What sentences did they receive? And what of their families? These questions and more will be answered by Joan Kavanagh when she will give a talk entitled 'Grangegorman - the transportation story' on 20th March in Wicklow Town Library Branch at 7 pm. All are welcome. This event is free, however spaces are limited. To book call 0404 67025 or email Wicklowlocalstudies@wicklowcoco.ie

Margaret Byrne named Grand Marshal for Rathdrum St. Patrick's parade

Rathdrum's own Margaret Byrne has been selected as this year's Grand Marshal for the Rathdrum St. Patrick's Day Parade. A proud native of the town where she was born and raised, Margaret has always had a deep love for Rathdrum and, in her own words, "will never leave."

This honour is particularly special as it carries on a family tradition—Margaret's mother, Catherine, was Grand Marshal 27 years ago, in 1998, when she was 37 years old. Now, in a heartwarming twist of fate, Margaret takes on the same role at the age of 37, further strengthening their family's deep connection to the community.

A dedicated entrepreneur, Margaret runs two thriving businesses—Top Choice Embroidery and Vale Aromas, which specialises in candles and home fragrances. Beyond her business ventures, she plays a vital role in the local economy and community spirit by organising the Rathdrum markets, with

proceeds supporting various community organisations in the area.

Her commitment to the town extends even further as Group Leader of Rathdrum Scouts, where she helps guide and mentor young people, fostering a sense of teamwork and leadership.

A true pillar of the community, Margaret Byrne's dedication, generosity, and hard work make her an outstanding choice for Grand Marshal. Rathdrum is proud to celebrate her many contributions, and she will undoubtedly lead this year's parade with the same passion and spirit that define her.



Stephen Kearon, Secretary Rathdrum St Patrick's Day Parade Committee, Margaret Byrne, Rathdrum St Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshal Marge Hughs, Chair Rathdrum St Patrick's Day Parade Committee.

Greystones Local Hero 2025

It's a chance for people to say thank you to those individuals who go above and beyond to make their town a better place.

And this year's Local Hero 2025 saw the people of Greystones nominate everyone from Friends Of The Cliff Walk to Greystones Cancer Support's Eileen Morris, from Tiglin founder Aubrey McCarthy to Tracy Holmes, the woman behind the Down Syndrome memoir Raising Resilience.

In the end, it was Yvonne O'Neill who received the most votes, her work with the

Greystones Town Team ensuring that such annual events as the Christmas Lights and the St Patrick's Day parade have been getting steadily bigger and better with each passing year.

"I'm just so honoured to have been voted Greystones Local Hero 2025," says Yvonne. "The volunteering I do through Greystones Town Team gives me great joy. Seeing the community enjoy the events that we run, see-

ing families who are new to the area making new memories is the exact reason why we do what we do.

"Of course, I can't run these events on my own so this award is for all my colleagues on the Greystones Town Team."

Sponsored by Schnitter Bourne, the Local Hero award has previously been won by Gill Gray, Kaci Rock, Fiona Roche, Delia Barry and Conor Power.



Yvonne O'Neill.

Citizens Information Services and Wicklow Library come together to provide trusted information and advice services

A pilot for a virtual Citizens Information Service (CIS) has been extended until the end of 2025. Members of the public can access free, confidential and trusted information and advice online from an Information Officer from South Leinster Citizens Information Service in a dedicated private space in Wicklow Library.

Members of the public can book an appointment with an expert Information Officer and have a one-on-one online session in a private space in Wicklow Library. The Information Officer will offer expertise and guidance on a range of topics including social welfare, taxation and education.

Martina Cronin, Development Manager, South Leinster CIS, noted how the Citizens Information Service in Wicklow has previously worked successfully with the library service: "We have a long track record of collaborating with the Library Service and the opportunity to continue to work with Wicklow Library in the provision

of this innovative information service for the community is greatly welcomed. I would like to thank the library staff for their continued support of this important initiative."

Mark Sayers, Executive Librarian, adds "Wicklow Town Library is very happy to be involved in providing a comfortable and confidential space for people to benefit from the

knowledge of the Citizen Information Service. We aim to provide a stress free experience, with staff on hand to assist however we can."

Mary Lyne, Standards and Development Manager, CIB said: "CIB was selected as one of the recipients of the Public Service Innovation Fund for a project that involves exploring technology to expand the reach of Citizens Information

Services. CIB was delighted to partner with South Leinster Citizens Information Service and Wicklow Library to develop the first of three remote library Information Clinics. Connecting people with an Information Officer using a video call in a comfortable and private space in their local library will bring Citizens Information even closer to the community. I am pleased to announce that two further clinics in counties Mayo and Galway have now commenced in conjunction with the library services."

The service in Wicklow Town Library will be available on Thursday afternoons between 2pm and 4pm by appointment.

This service is open to any member of the public and an appointment can be made by contacting the CIC in Bray on 0818 07 6780 or email bray@cit-info.ie. The public can also drop into Wicklow Library to enquire about the service.

CIB is a State agency under the remit of the Department of Social Protection and funds the Citizens Information Services.

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Major investment in greenway development

A major investment in Wicklow's Greenways Development and Active Travel schemes has been announced. Wicklow is set to receive a significant allocation of €1.65 million dedicated to key Greenway projects in the County. Tánaiste Simon Harris TD says this investment will transform the county's walking and cycling networks, contributing to a more sustainable, healthy, and connected future for communities across Wicklow.

The funding will be directed specifically toward the following Greenway Projects:

- Greystones to Wicklow: €500,000
 - Blessington E - Blessington Lake Loop: €200,000
 - Arklow to Shillelagh: €500,000
- And also the following Active Travel Project:
- Active Travel (N11 Kilmacanogue to Southern Cross Road): €150,000
 - And more

Speaking last week, Simon Harris said TD, Tánaiste, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, said "I am delighted to see such a significant investment in the garden county of Ireland. Greenway projects and active travel schemes are of huge benefit to all communities in county Wicklow.

"These projects increase active travel and create safer, greener transportation options for all.

"On top of this these projects boost local tourism, reduce congestion, and promote healthier lifestyles, as well as enhance the county's reputation as a hub for sustainable transport."



Tánaiste Simon Harris TD.

In addition to the Greenway funding, Wicklow County Council will receive €250,000 in Local Authority Greenways Support. This allocation is intended to provide engineering services and additional project resources, ensuring that these critical infrastructural developments are implement-

ed effectively and on schedule.

"From the Blessington Lake Loop to the much-anticipated Arklow to Shillelagh route, these Greenways will not only create safer, more sustainable routes for walking and cycling but will also enhance local tourism, connect communities, and contribute to a greener and healthier future for Wicklow.

"This funding is testament to the government's ongoing commitment to expanding its Greenway network.

"I want this government to position itself as a leader in green infrastructure to make sure we create a brighter future for our future generations.

"These projects will connect Wicklow to national cycling and walking routes, making them a key part of Ireland's growing network of sustainable travel options."

This funding is part of a broader €360 million investment in walking and cycling infrastructure for 2025, which includes €74.5 million allocated specifically for Greenways.



Naíonáin bheaga celebrating World Book Day at Gaelscoil an Inbhir Mhóir in Arklow last Thursday.

Wicklow GAA 2025

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TICKETS: 6 x Leinster Football Tickets and 4 All Ireland Tickets 2025 (Both Football or Hurling) & 10 Passes to Local Club Games 2025

MATCH PROGRAMME ADVERTISING: Club Football & Hurling Championship Final Program

MERCHANDISING: Some Wicklow Items reusable Cups, Bobble Hat, Signed Jersey

MEDIA & DIGITAL PLATFORMS: Two full pages in the county final program promoting your company, pictures and editorial. A spotlight on your company and people shared 4 times per year on our GAA social media platforms. Logo & Promotional Presence on Wicklow GAA Website & Social Media platforms with media announcement of sponsorship. Moving Banner on our Website

WICKLOW EVENTS: Partner Event, Sponsors Day



Silver Package €7,500

SIGNAGE: Perimeter Signage at Echelon Park Aughrim. County will be responsible for the cost of the sign. Signs will be located at the County discretion

TICKET ACCESS: Options to purchase 4 x Leinster Football Tickets and 2 All Ireland Tickets 2025 (Choice of Football or Hurling) & 4 Passes to Local Club Games 2025

MATCH PROGRAMME ADVERTISING: Club Football & Hurling Championship Final Program

MEDIA & DIGITAL PLATFORMS: Logo & Promotional Presence on Wicklow GAA Website & Social Media platforms with media announcement of sponsorship

WICKLOW EVENTS: Partner Event, Sponsors Day



Bronze Package €5,000

SIGNAGE: Perimeter Signage at Echelon Park Aughrim. County will be responsible for the cost of the sign. Signs will be located at the County discretion

MATCH PROGRAMME ADVERTISING: Club Football & Hurling Championship Final Program

MEDIA & DIGITAL PLATFORMS: Logo & Promotional Presence on Wicklow GAA Website & Social Media platforms with media announcement of sponsorship

WICKLOW EVENTS: Partner Event, Sponsors Day

ISPCA appeal for new homes for horses, donkeys and ponies



Dash on the road to recovery.

The ISPCA is appealing for homes for 25 rescued ponies, donkeys, and horses, currently in care and ready to find their forever homes.

ISPCA Head of Animal Welfare, Denise McCausland said: "With several equines that are ready to go to new homes now, we are trying to find suitable homes, where our horses, ponies and donkeys can continue their ongoing rehabilitation, whilst at the same time, we will be making space at our Centres for more equines to be admitted. We have more equines undergoing intensive veterinary treatment, so they will need to remain in our care for some time yet, but we urgently need to make room to help more emaciated, injured and cruelly treated equines, that will need to be brought in by our Animal Welfare Inspectors."

Denise added: "Finding space is always a challenge as we have limited isolation units, and a lot of our wooden fencing was damaged during Storm Eowyn, making it extra difficult when separating our equines, as we are in the process of repair work."

"Dash is one of our equines rescued last October, and he will be looking for a new home in the coming months. He was left tied to a fence at Ballinasloe Fair, in an emaciated condition and covered in sores. Through his microchip, it was established that Dash was on the racecourse as recently as last July and had won over €20,000 in his racing career.

Further enquiries revealed that, like many racehorses, he was sold on when he was not racing well. Sadly, for Dash, he passed through several hands, and it is believed that he was used for trotting, before being rescued by the ISPCA.

"We are asking for public support to consider rehoming one of our rescued ponies, horses, or donkeys. If you have a suitable spare stable or field shelter and are considering getting another equine as a companion animal, please visit: <https://ispca.ie/adoption/?ctr=&animal=horse> or email rehoming@ispca.ie for more information and how you can help.

"Dash is just one of many rescued equines that needed our help. A kind donation can provide life-saving care to help vulnerable animals, just like Dash. Please support the ISPCA by making a kind donation today <https://ispca.ie/donations/>. You can make a difference to help the ISPCA save more animals from cruelty and neglect."

The ISPCA urges the public to report any suspicions of animal cruelty, neglect or abuse to its confidential National Animal Cruelty Helpline by calling 0818 515 515, reporting online here: <https://ispca.ie/report-cruelty/> or by emailing helpline@ispca.ie.

OPW intervenes for conservation of endangered native species

On World Wildlife Day (March 3rd), the Office of Public Works (OPW) highlighted a conservation intervention at one of its high profile heritage sites on behalf of a native endangered species.

The Natterjack Toad is Ireland's only native toad species and found in just a handful of mostly coastal locations in Kerry. At Derrynane House and Historic Park, the Natterjack relies on shallow, artificial ponds for breeding, but due to coastal erosion exacerbated by climate change, one of those

ponds has become at risk of being overwhelmed by the Atlantic Ocean.

In partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) the OPW created a new pond over the winter, in a location less prone to erosion, for the toads to migrate to and breed in the early spring.

This represents a significant step in the conservation of an endangered species, part of OPW's commitment to sustainably manage important heritage sites and integrate biodiversity across all of its operations.

Chris O'Neill, Parks Superintendent at OPW, expressed the significance

of this project, stating, "the Natterjack Toads are very special because they're only found naturally in a handful of places in South West Ireland and is very restricted in its northern range in Europe."

"By creating this artificial pond we're hoping to achieve an improved outlook for the Natterjack

Toads at Derrynane, which can potentially be used as a stepping stone to spread to other areas in the locality."

As part of its Biodiversity Action Strategy 2022-2026, the OPW appointed JBA Consulting Engineers and Scientists Ltd to undertake a Biodiversity Audit and Action Plan on ten Historic sites which included Derrynane.

The Derrynane Biodiversity Audit & Action Plan outlines its biodiversity significance which is located within the boundary of two European (Natura 2000) protected habitat designations, the Special Area of Conservation, Kenmare River and the Special Protection Area, Iveragh Peninsula.

A baseline survey was undertaken along with recommendations to further improve the sites important biodiversity. The report concludes that



the good management at Derrynane National Historic Park is resulting in the overall good health

of the habitats and protected species at the site. For more information

on OPW's conservation efforts and work in managing heritage sites, please visit www.opw.ie.

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Hedge-cutting now prohibited

BirdWatch Ireland is calling on the public to adhere to the laws protecting wild birds, especially during the breeding period, which has already started. The prohibition on the cutting and burning of vegetation begins on 1st March each year and ends on 31st August, according to Section 40 of the Wildlife Act, 1976, as amended.

BirdWatch Ireland receives numerous calls every year from concerned members of the public over illegal and inappropriate cutting of hedgerows and burning of vegetation during the time when birds are building nests, looking for mates, laying eggs, raising young and completing their breeding cycles. It is important to note that the laws regarding hedge-cutting apply equally to urban and rural environments.

Hedgerows on farmland are hugely important for a range of wildlife, not least birds and insects, and farmers also know that they provide livestock with

important shelter.

However, BirdWatch Ireland is alarmed and disappointed to learn that in 2023 one-third of the sanctions issued by the Department of Agriculture to farmers inspected for compliance with the conditions of the Common Agriculture Policy basic income payment was for removal of designated landscape features, cutting of hedges and/or trees during the bird nesting and breeding season and damage to landscape features. To receive CAP basic payments, it is a legal requirement for landscape features to be retained, except in

exceptional and limited circumstances. Figures for 2024 sanctions are not yet available from the Department.

Whilst there are exemptions that exist that permit hedge-cutting to take place during the closed/restricted season, BirdWatch Ireland would like to stress that it remains an entirely separate offence under Section 22 of the Wildlife Act 1976 to wilfully destroy, injure, or mutilate the eggs or nest of a wild bird or to wilfully disturb a wild bird on or near a nest containing eggs or unflown young birds at any time of the year.

Brady reiterates call for Council to buy Magheramore site

Sinn Féin TD John Brady, has called on Wicklow County Council and the Department for the Environment to take immediate action to secure the 21-acre site at Magheramore Beach, which is due to go to public auction later this month.



John Brady TD.

Deputy Brady highlighted the importance of bringing the site into public ownership, ensuring that it is protected from future development and that the public's right-of-way to the beach is safeguarded for future generations.

"In 2021, Wicklow County Council unfortunately lost out on the opportunity to purchase this site when it was outbid, with the final sale price reportedly exceeding €700,000 - more than three times the original asking price.

"A subsequent planning application to develop the site was rightly rejected by both Wicklow County Council and An Bord Pleanála due to the significant environmental concerns associated with this sensitive location," Deputy Brady stated.

"With the site now back on the market, it is critically important

that Wicklow County Council and the Department for the Environment act decisively to ensure its purchase. This will prevent any future threat of development on this environmentally sensitive site and secure public access to Magheramore Beach for generations to come.

"I have written to the Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council and the Minister for the Environment, urging them to take the necessary steps to be able to bid and acquire the site when it comes up for auction later this month.

"Wicklow is home to some of the most beautiful and ecologically significant coastal areas in Ireland, and it is our responsibility to protect them. The opportunity to secure Magheramore Beach for public ownership must not be missed."

Estonian Ambassador proposes wooden house pilot project in Wicklow

Estonian Ambassador to Ireland, Her Excellency Kairi Künka made a presentation to Wicklow County Council last week where she asked that the Council agree to run a pilot project building wooden houses in Co. Wicklow.

"We have one Estonian company called Pagano, and their product is very well-known in Estonia and worldwide [...] they use a cut and gauge Panel system. We believe that this kind of initiative represents a unique opportunity to showcase leadership in sustainable construction while further strengthening the bilateral relationship between our nations," said

Ambassador Künka. "And we kindly request [the Council's] approval in principle or a letter of no objection to proceed with this project."

Estonia has a strong reputation in the wooden house sector, with about 200 companies exporting approximately 95% of their wooden houses to over 70 countries. The main export markets at the moment are in

Scandinavia and Germany.

Cathaoirleach Paul O'Brien welcomed the idea, saying "Ireland has faced a housing crisis now for a number of years, and I think it is time that we start thinking outside the box in terms of other construction material. And we do have a port here in Wicklow Town that imports a lot of timber from Scandinavia and other places, so I think any ideas have to be welcome to explore."

Ambassador Künka said the materials would be supplied by Estonia and the houses could be assembled in Ireland.

"There are options. You will get the prefabricated elements, so that everything can be put together here in Ireland after being shipped over, or everything can be installed already - kitchen and toilets and bathroom - inside and then they are brought into the country.

"Recently, in the last 30 years since we got Independence, our companies have been in the foreign markets. During this time they have the

experience with their products, in different climates in different markets. We are using Scandinavian timber and we are using Estonian timber. We used to use Russian timber but not anymore due to the war. It means we have the knowledge; we have the experience, and we have the architects, and we have the factories. The wooden house sector is one of the strongest in Estonia. The houses are fast, flexible, of high quality, innovative, sustainable, safe and stylish."

Cllr. John Snell said "In my former life I was lucky enough to work in the industry in regards to providing timber structure houses and I had the pleasure of working with Estonians here in Ireland. I know the products you are talking about, and I think it is timely in regards to this country. I think we have been very open in County Wicklow to exploring anything that is out there on the market."



Olive Caomhánach and Múinteoir Caroline celebrating World Book Day at Gaelscoil an Inbhir Mhóir in Arklow.

MORE GARDAÍ NEEDED

Continued from page 1

"Increased rural burglaries, particularly in isolated homes and farms, leave property owners feeling increasingly unsafe, with limited Garda response times to these rural areas.

"The current situation is unacceptable and must be rectified. I am calling on the Government to prioritise Garda recruitment and to ensure that our communities are adequately staffed and protected," Deputy Whitmore concluded.

Addressing the increase in crimes being committed by individuals on bail, Sinn Féin TD John Brady emphasised the urgent need for a comprehensive review and reform of the current bail system: "These figures are beyond shocking; they represent a clear and present danger to public safety. Our communi-

ties are being repeatedly victimised by individuals who, despite previous offenses, are granted bail and continue to commit crimes. This is a blatant failure of our justice system.

"While some of these offenses might be categorised as minor, many are severe, including violent crimes that have resulted in loss of life. The public's trust in the justice system is eroding as dangerous criminals exploit lenient bail conditions to reoffend."

Deputy Brady called on the government to take immediate action: "We cannot stand idly by while our communities live in fear. The government must prioritise the safety of its citizens by enacting stricter bail laws and ensuring that those who pose a risk are not granted the opportunity to reoffend. It's time to put the rights of victims and the safety of the public above all else."



An Roinn Cosanta
Department of Defence

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LEAN for business support for SMEs explained at breakfast seminar

As part of the countrywide Local Enterprise Week 2025, small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) business owners gathered at Clermont House in Rathnew to learn about the 'LEAN' initiative. This program, available through the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Wicklow, is funded by the Government of Ireland in partnership with Enterprise Ireland and local authorities. LEAN is a Japanese business methodology designed to improve efficiency and enable business owners to focus more on increasing sales.

Louise Fleming, Senior Enterprise Development Officer, opened the event and introduced the three guest speakers. John McDonald from Refine Consulting Ltd. began by explaining the principles of LEAN and detailing the offer from LEO Wicklow, which includes five half-days of free consultancy on the topic for small businesses in County Wicklow. Following this, two local business owners shared their experiences with LEAN:

Daibhid Corish from Pinecone Coffee and James Connolly from Knockrobin Glamping, both located in Rathnew.

Vibeke Delahunt, Head of Enterprise at LEO Wicklow, facilitated a question-and-answer session and encouraged eligible small businesses to apply for this support. She stated, "LEAN is a fantastic way to identify waste and inefficiencies in your business, with the guidance of a LEAN consultant appointed by LEO

Wicklow. We are delighted to be able to offer this support at no cost to you in 2025."

Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, has long supported the LEAN initiative. She commented, "Wicklow County Council is here to support you every step of the way in achieving significant cost reductions and increased sales through your participation in this LEAN Programme."

The event saw a diverse

range of businesses in attendance, including those in financial services, coaching, software, hospitality, and retail. Delicious catering was provided by local entrepreneur Thea Kinsella of Maidin Catering in Rathnew.

For more information on how to engage with LEO Wicklow, whether you are in the pre-start, start-up, or growth phases of your business, visit www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow or call the LEO team at 0404 30800.



Melanie Hunter, Andrea Wilson and Trevor Wood at the LEO Wicklow breakfast seminar held at Wicklow County Campus, Clermont House, Rathnew.



James Connolly - KnockRobin Glamping, Senior Enterprise Development Officer Louise Fleming, Head of Enterprise Vibeke Delahunt, John McDonald - LEAN Consultant, Redefine Consulting Ltd and Daibhid Corish - Pinecone Coffee at the LEO Wicklow breakfast seminar.



Lorna Gammell and Aoibheann Boyle at the LEO Wicklow breakfast seminar held at Wicklow County Campus, Clermont House, Rathnew.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

SECTION 75 – ROADS ACT, 1993 PROVISION FOR TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF PUBLIC ROAD

Wicklow County Council hereby gives notice of the temporary closure of the following public roads.

Roads to be closed:

Main Street Rathdrum – R755 from the Junction at Parnell Memorial Park to the Junction of L-97554 Lower Street.

Period of closure:

From 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm Monday, 17th March 2025.

Alternative Routes:

L- 97554 – Lower Street, Rathdrum.

Traffic Management will be in place for the duration of the parade.

Reason for Closure:

To facilitate the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Linda Healy,

Senior Executive Officer,

Transportation & Infrastructure Delivery.

New study ranks Wicklow among the best counties for female entrepreneurs

A new study to mark International Women's Day has revealed Wicklow to be the fourth-best county for female entrepreneurs. The research, carried out by business energy provider Procure.ie, analysed thousands of LinkedIn profiles across Ireland, to determine which counties are leading the way for high-ranking women in business ahead of International Women's Day on Saturday the 8th of March.

Wicklow placed fourth in the rankings with 133 female business founders currently based in the county. Cork ranks first with 360 female entrepreneurs and offers great support, including the Exxcel programme, which helps women start and grow their businesses. With a population of 584,156, the city has 62 female entrepreneurs per 100,000 people and is home to successful companies like The Good Dairy Company. Dublin follows in second place with 303 female founders and a larger population of 1,458,154, making it the country's business hub. While it has a lower concentration of female entrepreneurs per capita (21 per

100,000 people), it remains an attractive location due to its well-established ecosystem, featuring coworking spaces, networking events, and investor access, and is home to well-known brands like Sculpted by Aimee and Atlantic Bridge.

Galway ranks third with 161 female founders and a population of 277,737. It has a much higher concentration of female entrepreneurs, with 58 per 100,000 people. The city offers strong community programs like The Women in Business Network, creating a supportive environment where women can bring their dreams to life.

Wicklow ranks fourth with 133

female founders and the highest concentration in Ireland (85 per 100,000 people), offering a great work-life balance. Kildare follows with 132 female founders (53 per 100,000), benefiting from Dublin's resources while providing a quieter business environment.

The counties with the fewest female entrepreneurs are Carlow, Cavan, Roscommon, Longford, and Leitrim. Carlow has 23 female founders and a population of 61,968, giving it a rate of 37 female entrepreneurs per 100,000 people. The highest among the lowest-ranked counties, Cavan and Roscommon both have 21 female entrepreneurs per 100,000

people, with 17 and 15 female founders, respectively. Longford, with 12 female founders, has a slightly higher rate at 26 per 100,000 people. Leitrim ranks the lowest, with just 6 female founders and 17 per 100,000 people.

More and more women are starting businesses across Ireland, with some counties leading the way. While there are still areas that need improvement, the data shows that Ireland has made great progress in helping more female entrepreneurs bring their ideas to life.

For more information visit: <https://www.procure.ie/best-counties-female-entrepreneurs/>

Aontú call for the people to have say in a Triple lock referendum



Aontú Leader Peadar Toibin TD.

Aontú Leader Peadar Tóibín TD has criticised the government 'for declaring war' on neutrality after the Tánaiste admitted Irish troops could be deployed as part of EU missions once legislation that the Cabinet approved last week to dismantle the triple lock, is approved.

The Aontú leader and Tachta Dála TD for Meath West said: "A key safeguard of Irish neutrality is the triple lock. The triple lock by definition prevents Ireland from being militarily aligned to any military block. The triple lock gives our troops the legitimacy of UN authority in peacekeeping".

The proposed legislation will remove the requirement of a UN Security Council mandate for the deployment of Irish troops and increase the minimum number of troops deployed from 12 to 50. Plans were approved by Cabinet last week that will see a non-lethal military aid package to Ukraine €100m. On top of this the Government is in favour of an Irish contribution up to €750 million to a new EU security guarantee for Ukraine.

"It is clear that Ministers are tak-

ing a sledgehammer to our neutrality legacy," said Deputy Toibin.

Speaking at a local press event Aontú's Wicklow advocate Ciarán Hogan said "It is clear the will of the people is for neutrality and not sending our Irish defense forces. And yet the government are running a completely baseless campaign to remove the triple lock, with countless statements against our neutrality coming from ministers who as recently as 2022 spoke in defense of the triple lock system."

"We in Aontú are calling for a referendum so that the people can once again remind this government who they are supposed to represent and serve. It was Aontú who stood up to this government, being the lone party in Dail

against the disastrous family and care amendments. Another Referendum win for Aontú would show the governments disconnect from the people, and which parties to vote for when the next election comes," he concluded.

Deputy Toibin added "The argument that the UN Security Council requirement should be removed because it gives power to its five permanent members is simply redundant when these measures will have Irish troops deployed under the auspices of the EU, commanded by other nations where the Irish people will have no input. The Government must abandon this relentless undermining of our neutrality and its desire to play with the big boys of Europe at the expense of the men and women of our defence forces and their families."



Ciarán Hogan, Wicklow Aontu advocate.

Funchion hosts Kathleen Chada at European Parliament Feminist Forum

Kathleen Funchion MEP was honoured to welcome Kathleen Chada to The Left's Feminist Forum in the European Parliament, an annual event bringing together women leading change right across Europe.

Speaking from the Forum, MEP Funchion said: "Kathleen shared her powerful story of loss, grief and advocacy for those in similar situations across Ireland. Her contribution deeply resonated with attendees, reinforcing the importance of placing victims at the heart of justice, leading to a standing ovation for her contribution."

"Kathleen from County Carlow, tragically lost her two sons, Eoghan and Ruairí in 2013

when their father murdered them, she has become a leading advocate for justice and legislative reform."

"This year saw guests come from right across Europe, including Greece, Italy, Spain, France, Belgium, Portugal, Sweden and Ireland who focussed on ending patriarchal violence, including violence against women and children."

"Kathleen's advocacy has been instrumental

in raising awareness of the deep and lasting consequences of familicide. Her voice is a vital force for change, and her story at the Feminist Forum was a powerful reminder of why we must continue to fight for proper justice for victims of violence against women and children."

"I was delighted to be able to invite Kathleen to Brussels and I would like to thank Kathleen most sincerely for sharing her story with us in the European Parliament."



Kathleen Chada and Kathleen Funchion MEP in the European Parliament, Brussels.



Quinn Fennell-Neville and Ben Gebauer at the BIFE Open Day.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY GRANTS COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME 2025

As part of its commitment to supporting local community development, Wicklow County Council operates an annual Community Award Scheme. The fund for 2025 will be available as grant aid to successful community groups and local organisations wishing to undertake community projects in their area.

- Maximum grant amount of €500 per organisation for small projects and group running costs.
- Please note only **one** application per organisation will be considered.

The application form is available on Wicklow County Council's website at www.wicklow.ie

Any queries should be made to the Social Development Directorate (Housing & Community), Wicklow County Council, Whitegates, Wicklow Town, A67 FW96.

Email: CAS@wicklowcoco.ie

Phone: 0404 20208

The closing date for receipt of applications is 4.00p.m. Friday 25th April 2025. Late applications will not be considered.



Climate Action Art project brings fun to sustainability

The PlanIt Play book launch took place in the Mermaid Arts Centre recently. The book came about as a result of PlanIt Play workshops which took place in 10 Wicklow libraries, with approximately 300 participants.

The project team of artists Siobhan Enright, Michael Durand and environmental scientist Janet McKennedy guided Workshop participants as they created a climate action superhero from old toys, learned about the circular economy, and co-created a manifesto for change.

The PlanIt Play project is a collaboration between art and science with the aim of seeking some solutions around making toys more environmentally friendly while having fun. PlanIt Play is one of the 24 Creative Ireland Climate Action Spark projects.

The book launch hosted a climate cafe with special guests including: Jiminy Toys founder and Associate Director in Sustainability Works Sharon Keilthy; Dr Joanna Fortune, Psychotherapist, author and expert in creative play and Green Party Wicklow Cllr Erika Doyle as well as a drawing session for the young people with author and

illustrator Bex.

In total 20 workshops were held, in 10 Wicklow libraries, with approximately 300 participants. The participants were invited to come to a workshop to design and make their own superhero toy from old and broken toys, learn about the circular economy and co-create a Manifesto for Change.

Janet McKennedy said “We talked about the circular economy and asked the participants to contribute their ideas to co-create a manifesto for change to the toy industry, while everyone was making their own toy, it was great fun and people had lots to say.”

Speaking about a workshop he attended Dave Eluk, Parent and Secondary School Teacher said “I attended the Plan It Play event in Tinahely Library over the summer with my 2 young daughters who thoroughly enjoyed it and were very appreciative of the idea of reuposing and fixing broken

toys. It's a fantastic way for kids (and us intrigued parents) to learn and get involved in what's possible with a bit of expert direction and a few tools many of us would already have about the house.”

While Artist and Educator, Ashling McNamara, who attended the workshop in the Greystones library, said, “This was a great experience for my children. They were both totally absorbed. It was a lovely activity to engage imaginative play and making skills as well as teaching children the importance of sustainability.”

The Wicklow Library service supported the project through facilitating the delivery of the workshop in Enniskerry, Bray, Ballywaltrim, Greystones, Wicklow, Arklow, Rathdrum, Tinahely, Baltinglass and Blessington.

Bray Librarian Vita Coleman said “Bray Library was delighted to host Plan-It-Play workshops in 2024. The combination of



Pictured at the launch of the Plan-It Play publication at Mermaid Arts Centre Bray are Cllr Erika Doyle, Vita Coleman, Janet McKennedy, Siobhan Enright, Joanna Fortune and Sharon Keilthy.

thoughtful preparation and playful exploration resulted in a dynamic, creative and fun experience for all participants who came away with practical and accessible ways to step out of linear patterns of consumption and into the circular economy. This is especially relevant to the library service, and to Wicklow County Council, as we seek to promote the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals throughout our work.”

PlanIt Play have produced a publication which documents the project activities and acts as a step by step guide for to make new toys from old ones. Some of the wonderfully creative examples created by the workshop participants are presented throughout the book to provide inspiration for the reader to make their own toy.

The publication will be distributed throughout the Wicklow library service, and shows that being more sustainable in the way we live and the choices we make can be fun, and does not have to cost the earth in the true spirit of sustainability.

PlanIt Play is one of the 24 Creative Ireland Climate Action Spark funded projects piloting new ideas for public engagement at a local and community level.

Greystones Harbour trees repaired

Just in time for National Tree Week, Trees in the Greystones Harbour Park have been repaired following storm damage.

Cllr. Stephen Stokes had written to the management company to highlight the issue. He has expressed his appreciation for the recent tree repairs and maintenance work undertaken by Sensori Facilities Management. Cllr Stokes stated: "The proactive measures taken by the Greystones Harbour management

company to restore and maintain our local trees are commendable."

Cllr. Stokes believes that protecting trees is vital. Cllr Stokes added: "The challenge is that the area is wide open to elements beside the sea. Several trees near the Harbour were even partially uprooted. As such they now have been reinforced. Such efforts not

only beautify our community but also play a crucial role in supporting our ecosystem."

Cllr. Stephen Stokes has consistently advocated for the preservation of natural habitats across the Greystones Municipal District. In previous instances, he has raised concerns over large-scale vegetation clearances and emphasising the importance of protecting local biodiversity. The recent actions by the harbour's

management reflect a positive step towards environmental stewardship.

Cllr. Stokes added: "It's heartening to see local entities taking responsibility and contributing positively to our environment. I hope this sets a precedent for other organisations to engage in sustainable practices that benefit both the community and the natural world."



The damaged tree before repairs.



Cllr Stokes with the repaired tree.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

SECTION 75 – ROADS ACT, 1993 PROVISION FOR TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF PUBLIC ROAD

Wicklow County Council hereby gives notice of the temporary closure of the following public road.

Road to be closed:
R762 Mill Road and Church Road, Greystones, Co Wicklow.

Period of closure:
From 10.30 am to 12.30 pm Monday 17th March, 2025.

Alternative Routes:
R761 Killincarrig Village and Lower Kindlestown Road.

Traffic Management will be in place.

Reason for Closure:
This is to facilitate the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Linda Healy,
Senior Executive Officer,
Transportation & Infrastructure Delivery.

'West Wicklow needs neurorehabilitation centre'

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has reiterated her call for the establishment of a neurorehabilitation centre in West Wicklow, highlighting the ongoing delays and lack of progress as a significant failure of the Government.

"I have been advocating for this crucial service for several years and I have asked the HSE for updates on multiple occasions.



Jennifer Whitmore TD.

The latest response I received from them stated that the staff for the centre had been approved, but no opening date was provided. This is not good enough," Deputy Whitmore explained.

"The funding for a neurorehabilitation team for West Wicklow was approved in 2018 and since then we have seen delay after delay with no explanation. The people of West Wicklow have been waiting years for this service and I called on Stephen Donnelly, when he was Minister for Health, to deliver on this promise for his constituents," Deputy Whitmore added, "but my calls clearly fell on deaf ears. We currently have two community neurorehabilitation teams in Ireland, despite the National Neuro-rehabilitation Strategy's Implementation Framework (2019-2021) outlining the need for nine teams. This means that only 15 percent of neurological patients in Ireland have access to the vital care they need to support their recovery," Deputy Whitmore continued. "I supported the Neurological Alliance of Ireland (NAI) campaign for neurorehabilitation centre in 2023 and I am so disappointed at the continued inaction.

"This is a huge problem and its completely unacceptable, not only for the people of West Wicklow but also for Kildare, Dublin West, Dublin South City, and Dublin South West, who are all waiting on the same service to be delivered," Deputy Whitmore commented.

"If a stroke patient is discharged from hospital and has no supports in their community, their recovery is seriously threatened. Aftercare is crucial for recovery, and the lack of community support services is a glaring issue. My office attended an Oireachtas briefing with the HSE last week to discuss integrated health areas and raised this issue during the meeting to request a timeline. Unfortunately, they couldn't give us a timeline or additional information on the spot and they are yet to provide us with this timeline.

"I was very happy to see that the recruitment started for the long-awaited neurorehabilitation centre in Bray last year, but the needs of West Wicklow must now be addressed," Deputy Whitmore asserted.

"The government cannot keep kicking this down the road," Ms. Whitmore concluded. "I will be following up with Minister Carroll MacNeill and the HSE to ensure that the people of West Wicklow, and Kildare, are serviced, because they have been left in the dark for too long."

Timmins seeks transparency on pharmacy receipts to achieve 'price parity'

TD wants detailed breakdown of medicines and any other costs clearly displayed for consumers

Fine Gael TD Edward Timmins is calling for enhanced transparency around pharmacy receipts for both patients and members of the public. This view is supported by the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI) - The Pharmacy Regulator, the statutory body responsible for regulating pharmacists and community pharmacies in the public interest and additionally leading academic researchers.

Speaking from Dáil Éireann following his question to the Minister for Health Jennifer Carroll MacNeill TD, Deputy Edward Timmins remarked:



Edward Timmins TD.

"Today I raised an essential issue with the Minister for Health Jennifer Carroll MacNeill about Pharmacies and the receipts they give to customers. I requested that all Pharmacy receipts display detailed breakdowns of medicines and all other associated costs. This should indeed be the norm as it is in any other retail purchase. It's both in the interest of fair competition and in the interest of the consumer who should see the detail of what they are paying for. It's a simple request for transparency."

Deputy Timmins noted leading academic research on this specific topic: "In a 2022 study entitled 'Research in Social and Administrative Pharmacy' carried out by Researchers

at Trinity College Dublin and RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences, major discrepancies emerged. The study revealed that the most expensive pharmacies can charge more than double the price of the least expensive pharmacies with certain products being nearly 90% higher in some chemists! This important study also showed no pharmacies had prices displayed on their websites.

"The research depicted clear examples of unusual price variations for instance with the antiviral drug Famciclovir, quoting an average price of €46, €8.95 higher than the HSE reimbursement price of €37.31 and with the very well-known steroid, Prednisolone, costing €5 higher in the more expensive pharmacies. I hope my proposal for improved transparency will correct this."

Deputy Timmins continued: "While pricing itself is broadly outside the remit of the Pharmacy Regulator, the PSI believes transparency for patients and members of the public is crucial in line with the Code of Conduct for Pharmacists. Principle three of

the PSI Code of Conduct states that pharmacists are required to 'provide honest, relevant, accurate, current and appropriate information to patients regarding the nature, cost, value and benefit of medicines, health-related products and services provided by them'. It is time that transparency is provided in the public interest."

Deputy Edward Timmins pointed out: "Indeed it was a local constituent who first raised this issue with me. At that time as a Councillor, I brought a successful motion to Wicklow County Council on the matter. While time has moved on, the lack of transparency on pharmacy receipts has stayed the same. As a TD, I believe it is now time to change this. My practical solution will greatly benefit consumers both in Wicklow, and across Ireland."

Deputy Timmins concluded: "Far greater transparency is needed. I also encourage the Irish Pharmacy Union which represents Pharmacies in Ireland to fully support the spirit of my request, and I will happily meet them to discuss my concerns."



Sophie Quinn performing at the BIFE Open Day.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

SECTION 75 – ROADS ACT, 1993 PROVISION FOR TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF PUBLIC ROAD

Wicklow County Council hereby gives notice of the temporary closure of the following public roads. Roads to be closed:

- Vevay Road north of Church Road
- Killarney Road north of Church Road
- Main Street Town Hall to Quinsborough Road
- Quinsborough Road
- Eglington Road
- Seymour Road
- Seapoint Road, east of Seymour Road
- Strand Road

Period of closure:

From 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm Monday 17th March, 2025.

Alternative Routes:

Alternative route for traffic accessing east Bray will be via Putland Road and Sidmonton Road or Meath Road.

Local north – south traffic through Bray will be diverted via Church Road, King Edward Road, Herbert Road and Main Street Bray, north of its junction with Herbert Road. Access will be available to the Herbert Road carpark.

The parade route is from the Town Hall, Vevay Road, Bray (opposite St Patrick's School) proceeding down Main Street, turning right onto Florence Road, Eglington Road, turning right onto Quinsborough Road, turning left onto Seymour Road, right onto Seapoint Road and concludes on the Strand Road.

Traffic management will be in place during the passing of the parade.

Reason for Closure:

To facilitate the Bray St. Patrick's Day parade.

Linda Healy,
Senior Executive Officer,
Transportation & Infrastructure Delivery.

Education as a path to recovery: How learning is transforming lives at Tiglin

"Right now, in the community, I'm not 'Paul the addict' anymore. I'm just Paul. People don't know my past unless I tell them. And for the first time, I see a future-one where I give back and help others find their way too."

The Road to Recovery

Paul's decision to enter Tiglin's rehabilitation centre came on the back of decades spent in addiction and the chaos it brings. Paul explains that Ger Ganley, current head of Tiglin's rehabilitation services, had encouraged him to seek help for years, but Paul resisted-until his health forced him to face reality.

"I was hospitalised, my immune system was breaking down. They told me I had six weeks to live. I knew then that drugs had taken everything from me-my life, my family, my future. It doesn't get any worse than that."

At that moment, Paul finally committed to recovery, joining Tiglin Men's Centre in the Wicklow Mountains (9-month residential rehab followed by a 7-month reintegration/aftercare programme). Looking back, he now realises that every element of the programme had a purpose-helping him address not just addiction but the underlying struggles that led him there.

"It's about working on the problems that brought you into addiction in the first place. You stop running and start facing reality. It gives you self-esteem, a voice, and a second chance at life" says Paul.

Breaking Barriers Through Education

For Paul Killen, education was once a source of fear and frustration. Like many in recovery, his past experiences with learning had left him lacking confidence and feeling disconnected from the classroom. A key factor in this was his undiagnosed dyslexia:

"When I was growing up, dyslexia wasn't recognised. But I've learned that if you give me time and break things down for me, I can understand. The more courses I took, the more confident I became."

Paul's introduction to education in recovery came while on the Tiglin programme, where South East Technological University (SETU) delivers structured learning programmes to those in Tiglin's care. Initially, he was hesitant-but decided to join the journey with his peers. As Paul continued through the courses, his self-belief grew. What started as a part of the rehab programme became a pathway to higher learning.

"I recently looked at my CV and couldn't believe how many certs I've earned. I've gone from those courses in aftercare to a Level 5 in Addiction Studies, and now I've been accepted into Level 6 in Key Working and Case

Management.

That's something I never thought possible."

Paul's story is a testament to the power of education in recovery-proving that learning isn't just about academics; it's about self-worth, independence, and opening doors to a brighter future.

A New Purpose: Giving Back

Today, Paul has something he once thought was out of reach-a future. At 60, he is working with Tiglin, pursuing further education, and helping others who are on the same journey he once walked.

"One day, someone told me I should work with Tiglin. When I checked, I saw a job opening for a Community Employment Support Worker. I applied, got it, and now I choose to be here-to help."

For Paul, the programme didn't just help him recover-it gave him his life back.

"At the residential centre, you learn to love yourself again. But aftercare teaches you to leave your problems on that mountain and move forward. At the end of all the work, you realise-drugs weren't the problem. You were."

Looking Ahead

Paul's journey doesn't stop here. Having travelled to South Africa three times as part of Tiglin's

Breaking the Cycle

outreach work, he now dreams of returning to give back-supporting others on their journey out of addiction and poverty.

"I think that's my thing-helping people. My goal is to give back."

Using Education to build Social Capital

Paul's story underscores a fundamental truth-education is one of the most powerful tools for breaking the cycle of addiction.

Tiglin's partnership with SETU, now in its third year and backed by €833,333 in funding from the Higher Education Authority (HEA), is expanding access to education for individuals in addiction recovery. By integrating micro-credentials and skills training into the rehabilitation process, Tiglin and SETU are creating a sustainable



Paul is working with Tiglin, pursuing further education, and helping others who are on the same journey he once walked.

pathway for reintegration, equipping participants with the tools needed to rebuild their lives.

Paul's journey illustrates this impact. For him, education was more than just acquiring knowledge-it was about rediscovering confidence, reclaiming his self-worth, and unlocking a future he once thought impossible.

"Right now, in the community, I'm not 'Paul the addict' anymore. I'm just Paul. People don't know my past unless I tell them. And for the first time, I see a future-one where I give back and help others find their way too."


Senator Aubrey McCarthy, Founder of Tiglin, emphasises the importance of SETU's education initiative:

"We knew that true transformation required addressing the whole person - education and employment are vital components of that journey. Without a means to bridge the gap left by addiction, the risk of relapse upon returning to the community is high. This is where the incredible work of SETU, our Community Employment programme, social enterprise, and reintegration initiatives play a crucial

role in building social capital, fostering agency, and restoring lives beyond Tiglin."

Paul's journey illustrates this impact. For him, education was more than just acquiring knowledge-it was about rediscovering confidence, reclaiming his self-worth, and unlocking a future he once thought impossible.

"Right now, in the community, I'm not 'Paul the addict' anymore. I'm just Paul. People don't know my past unless I tell them. And for the first time, I see a future-one where I give back and help others find their way too."



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

SECTION 75 – ROADS ACT, 1993
PROVISION FOR TEMPORARY CLOSURE
OF PUBLIC ROAD

Wicklow County Council hereby gives notice of the temporary closure of the following public roads.

Road to be closed:
From the junction of R753 and R747 (Aughrim Bridge) Glen Road, Chapel Lane and Rednagh Road, Aughrim.

Period of closure:
From 11:00 am to 12:30 pm Monday 17th March, 2025.

Alternative Routes:
LR747 – Divert at Annacurra to Rednagh Road.
R753 – Divert to R747 at Cronebeg.

Traffic Management will be in place.

Reason for Closure:
This closure is to facilitate the St. Patrick's Day parade.

Linda Healy,
Senior Executive Officer,
Transportation & Infrastructure Delivery.



Shauna and Amey Bermingham at the Wicklow Hospice Half Marathon and 10km in Beyond the Trees, Avondale.

Vartry walking trails to re-open for St. Patrick's weekend

Irish Water is continuing to work with Dublin City Council to remove a significant number of fallen trees in Vartry Reservoir Woodland areas following the impact of high winds from Storm Darragh in December 2024.

Fallen trees blocked the main access points to the Upper Vartry Reservoir Park and Dam. A significant number of trees were also partially uprooted and at a heightened risk of falling.

Uisce Eireann, working with Dublin City Council, mobilised a contractor to clear all uprooted trees, undertake a risk assessment of remaining trees, and remove additional trees which posed a risk to the public. Large accumulations of snowfall

during the cold snap in early January, and high winds during Storm Eowyn in late January, delayed tree clearance works, as we temporarily stood down works on both occasions to prioritise the safety of crews on site.

Uisce Eireann in collaboration with County Wicklow Partnership have confirmed that a significant portion of walking trails around Vartry Upper Reservoir will be re-opened in time for St Patrick's weekend.

The following areas will be re-opening to the public:

The Upper Vartry Trail, including: Upper Vartry Reservoir Carpark; Carpark and Layby along R765 (Knockraheen pedestrian gate); Vartry Upper Dam Crest; Family Play Trail (1km Loop); Roundwood Reservoir - Upper Vartry Trail (6.5km Loop).

Temporary signage will be in place to direct the public towards open routes.

The following trails will remain closed as clean-up works are ongoing: Vartry Upper - Woodland Trail; Vartry Upper - Roundwood Reservoir Woodpecker Trail; All woodland walking trails in and around Vartry Lower Reservoir.

Irish Water said "We are appealing to the public to avoid these trails until further works to ensure these areas are safe are complete. We anticipate being in a position to reopen additional trails on a phased basis as clearance works are completed. Uisce Eireann acknowledge the inconvenience caused by these closures and appreciate the community's ongoing cooperation as we prioritise public safety and the safety of our contractors. We would like to thank Wicklow County Council and Dublin City Council for their support with the ongoing clean-up efforts at the Vartry Upper Reservoir.



Natasha and Leah Byrne at the BIFE Open Day.

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phone: 01-2720788

Opening Times
Mon - Sat (10.00am - 5.30pm) Thurs 7.30 pm
Sun - Closed (Bank Hols 2.00pm - 5.30pm)
Church Road, Ballybrack, Co. Dublin



Grand Marshal Kathleen Kelleher.

Kathleen Kelleher named Grand Marshal for Greystones St. Patrick's Day Parade

Cathaoirleach Tom Fortune leads the parade committee

Greystones is set to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in legendary style as the town's much-loved annual parade returns on Monday, March 17th at 11:00am. This year's theme, "Legends of Ireland", will honour iconic figures - both national and local - making it the perfect moment to recognise Kathleen Kelliher as Grand Marshal.

A true community legend, Kathleen has dedicated decades to public service and community work, serving on Greystones Town Council for 15 years, including five years as a Wicklow County Councillor. She was also Mayor of Greystones Town Council and a driving force behind many local initiatives, including Greystones Cancer Support, Meals on Wheels, and

Greystones Active Retirement Association.

Speaking about the honour, she said: "I am honoured and feel very privileged to have been chosen as Grand Marshal for the St. Patrick's Day Parade 2025. Our Greystones Parade is one of the two major events in the town's calendar when we all come together as one."

"It is a showcase of all that is wonderful about our town: community groups, schools, and sports associations. We put ourselves out there, on display, to share what Greystones is all about."

The Greystones St. Patrick's Day Parade is a fun-filled, family-friendly celebration, featuring marching bands, local schools, sports clubs, and community groups. In a continued effort to make the parade as inclusive as possible, the parade organisers and volunteers have worked with ASIAM, Ireland's national autism charity, to create a Quiet Zone—a dedicated space along the route where individuals with

sensory sensitivities can experience the celebrations in a calmer, more comfortable environment.

New for 2025: Music & Entertainment at Marina Plaza

This year, the celebrations won't stop when the parade ends! A brand-new addition to the 2025 Greystones St. Patrick's Day Parade will see live music and entertainment at Marina Plaza, bringing even more festive spirit to the day.

Attendees can enjoy performances from local musicians, dancers, and entertainers, making it the perfect way to continue the St. Patrick's Day celebrations with family and friends.

Parade Committee Chair Cathaoirleach Tom Fortune highlighted the hard work of the Greystones 2025 Parade Committee made up of Volunteers and Town Councillors, who ensure the event runs smoothly:

"The Greystones Parade is a huge community effort, and we are incredibly

bly grateful to the volunteers who make it all happen. It has grown into one of the most anticipated events of the year, celebrating the spirit and togetherness."

Road Closures & Safety Measures

To ensure the safety of all attendees, temporary road closures will be in place along the parade route. Visitors are encouraged to plan their journey in advance and check www.greystones.ie for full details on traffic management and alternative routes.

Date: Monday, March 17th

Time: 11:00 AM

Route: Park & Ride Car Park to Greystones Main Street to Marina Plaza.

"Join us for a joyful celebration of music, culture, and Irish legend as we bring the streets of Greystones to life this St. Patrick's Day!"

If you would like your group or sports club to participate in the parade, email events@greystones.ie to secure a spot.



Yvonne O'Neill, Cllr Tom Fortune (Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District), this year's Grand Marshal Kathleen Kelleher and Ali Gibbons.

Bray set for jam-packed five-day St. Patrick's Festival

Bray Chamber has announced that Bray's much-anticipated St. Patrick's Festival returns in 2025, bringing five days of cultural celebrations, family-friendly events, and entertainment to the town. From Friday, March 14th to Tuesday, March 18th, Bray will be alive with vibrant festivities that honour Irish heritage, community spirit, and cultural diversity.

The festival is jam-packed with events and activities for all ages and interests. You can enjoy the spectacular St. Patrick's Day Bray Parade, live music, and dance performances, experience the thrilling rides at Bird's Euroshow Funfair, or delve into the

magical realm of puppet shows. For those seeking a relaxing experience, informative talks, a yoga session, and free face painting are available. With so much to do, there's something for everyone!

Kieran Ward, President of the Bray & District

Chamber of Commerce, highlighted the importance of the festival, saying, "Bray's St. Patrick's Festival is a fantastic opportunity to showcase the town's vibrant culture and strong sense of community. This annual celebration also provides a welcome

boost to our local economy, attracting visitors from near and far while reinforcing Bray as a must-visit destination."

The St. Patrick's Day Bray Parade will celebrate community spirit and cultural diversity. Gather

along the parade route and enjoy the amazing sights as 2,000 participants showcase their talents and creativity while flowing through the town in a spectacular fashion!

Once again, this year, there will be a quiet zone along Seymour Road and a wheelchair-accessible viewing area adjacent to the viewing stand. Places are limited and are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

This year's Parade's Grand Marshal is Matt Keenan. Matt has profoundly impacted our community by spearheading an innovative initiative, likely the first of its kind worldwide, to establish a panel of local mental health first aid responders. He also hosts The Anxious Lad podcast. Consequently, he was honoured with the Bray Person of the Year award for 2024.

Road closures will be in place on Monday, March 17th, from 1 pm until after 3 pm to facili-



tate the Parade route. Roads affected include Main Street, Florence Road, Eglinton Road, Quinsboro Road, Seymour Road, Seapoint Road, Strand Road and surrounding junctions.

Cllr. Dermot O'Brien, Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District, added, "The St. Patrick's Festival in Bray is a wonderful occasion where

our community comes together to celebrate our rich heritage and inclusivity. The variety of events ensures that there is something for everyone to enjoy, and we are thrilled to welcome locals and visitors alike to join in the celebrations."

You can read more about the festival, download a handy pocket guide and map, register

for free workshops, sign up for competitions, and access the treasure hunt questionnaire by visiting bray.ie/stpatricksfestival/.

"I would like to thank our sponsors, committee members, volunteers, service providers, participants, and emergency services for making our festival such a tremendous success," concluded Kieran.



Wicklow student wins Rotary Youth Leadership Competition

Wicklow second level student Emily Bunce was one of just 20 teenagers from all over the island of Ireland to be presented with a Rotary Youth Leadership Development certificate at the new Europe House in Dublin recently.

The competition, which Rotary Ireland has been running for over 30 years, rewards young people with clear leadership potential based on their extra-curricular activities. It is run in conjunction with the European Parliament Office in Dublin with the winners enjoying an all-expenses paid week-long trip to Belfast, Dublin and Strasbourg. Former winners of the award include Tánaiste and Wicklow TD Simon Harris, who in 2015 was presented with the Paul Harris Fellowship and made an Honorary Member of Rotary Ireland.

Emily, who is a fifth-year student in Dominican College Wicklow, received her certificate from Rotary Ireland District Governor, Seamus Parle, and Fionnuala Croker, Acting Head of Office at the European Parliament Office in Dublin.

The itinerary for the students' trip included visits to Belfast, Dublin, and Strasbourg. In Belfast they received a private tour of City Hall and a meeting with the Lord Mayor, Councillor Micky Murray, followed by a tour of Stormont where they met several politicians and also listened in

to some debates from the visitor's gallery.

At the new European Parliament Offices in Chatham Street, Dublin, they immersed themselves in all things EU related via the new Europa Experience and a 360-degree cinema presentation.

The students heard some very interesting presentations on the EU, and particularly the European Parliament's role and powers, as well as about traineeships which are available with the EU institutions. After being presented with their leadership certificates students embarked on tours of the Seanad and Dail where they met several TDs.

Then it was onto Strasbourg where they visited the famous Notre Dame cathedral, enjoyed a private tour of the European Court of Human Rights and paid a visit to Petit France, which was once home to the city's tanners, millers and fishermen and is now a UNESCO World Heritage site.

On the penultimate day of their stay, it was off to the European Parliament where they and students from all over Europe were welcomed by Roberta Mestola,

President of the European Parliament. The highlight for the students was taking part in Euroscola, a simulation of the work of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) in a debate and vote on the EU's actions to tackle disinformation.

Emily, who is a member of her school's student council as well as being a member of the Irish Second Level Students Union, is a keen debater and huge music fan, playing the guitar in her spare time.

She said the highlight of the week was taking part in a debate at the European Parliament. "It was simply a surreal experience which I know I will never forget. I got the opportunity to speak in front of a full hemicycle in the European Parliament buildings which is something I could have only dreamed of."

Emily believes inflation and the cost-of-living crisis are key issues for young people. "These affect young people more than one would realise and will greatly impact us when we leave school. I don't believe enough is done to support students in third level which leaves us all very unsure as to where our future lies."

Emily has no hesitation in recommending the competition to younger students and is very appreciative of Wicklow Rotary for nominating her.

"I had a once in a lifetime experience with the most phenomenal people. Through this competition I got the opportunity to meet like-minded people from across Ireland and Europe which was truly the best learning experience. I went to Belfast not knowing anyone and by the end of the week I had made friends I will keep for life; we spent so much time together and we all learned so much from one another. I came out of this week feeling more inspired and empowered than ever before."

Seamus Parle, District Governor of Rotary Ireland praised the students' passion for learning and their enthusiastic embrace of new experiences.

"While they were naturally nervous when they all met up in Belfast for the first time, their confidence grew in leaps and bounds as they shared new experiences, cultivated new friendships, and improved their communication skills."

"We were so impressed by the wide



Emily Bunce receiving her Rotary Youth Leadership Development Competition Award from Fionnuala Croker, Acting Head of Office, the European Parliament Office in Dublin and Seamus Parle, District Governor of Rotary Ireland at an event at Europe House in Dublin.

range of activities they are involved in, the level of knowledge they displayed on various topical issues and their ability to absorb so much information about the different parliaments they visited. Emily and the other students are a credit to themselves, their families, their schools and their communities and we are confident that the

accomplishments and friendships they have made will stay with them forever as they continue to develop their skills and broaden their horizons.

"I would like to thank all the teachers and Rotarians who helped us along the way to plan and organise this trip and I would urge as many young people as possible from every part of the island to take part in next year's competition," Mr Parle concluded.

Fionnuala Croker, Acting Head of Office, the European Parliament Office in Dublin said; "This group of exceptionally talented young individuals from all around Ireland have come through a very competitive process to win a place on this study trip, which included a visit to the European Parliament in Strasbourg. It was a pleasure to speak to them in Europe House before they set off. I was very impressed with how

well-informed, how engaged and how curious they are. Since their return I have heard they represented all of Ireland with distinction and contributed meaningfully to a debate with their fellow students on the steps the EU is taking to tackle disinformation."

The Rotary Youth Leadership Development Competition is open to 16 and 17-year-olds who are living on the island of Ireland. For more information go to www.rotary.ie

KWETB calls for accelerated release of National Training Fund

Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI) has urged the Government to expedite the release of National Training Fund (NTF) investment in Further Education and Training (FET) committed to under the last Budget, to drive sustained investment in Further Education and Training and equip learners with the skills needed for a rapidly evolving economy.



Dr Deirdre Keyes, Chief Executive, KWETB.

Speaking to over 300 delegates at the National FET Conference 2025 held in Sligo (26th-27th February) including FET personnel from across Kildare & Wicklow ETB, ETBI General Secretary Paddy Lavelle emphasised the urgent need for the release of capital infrastructure funding and sustained investment to modernise Ireland's FET sector:

"The Government has made lifelong learning a national priority" he stated, "and we welcome the pledge of €150m for the Further Education and Training sector, €235m for skills and apprenticeships, and the new programme for government commitment to unlock the NTF. However, ETBI would like to see this process expedited. The National Training Fund stands at a record surplus, yet our member ETBs continue to face constraints in infrastructure, digital capacity, and learner access. We are calling on the government to accelerate the unlocking of funds to ensure our Ireland's workforce is not just prepared for the future but leading it."

Investment in Infrastructure and Workforce Development

ETBI urged the Government to prioritise investment in the capital infrastructure of FET, ensuring that training centres, apprenticeships, and digital learning platforms reflect the needs of a modern workforce. This aligns with the National Development Plan, which highlights the necessity of sustained financial support to enhance FET's role in upskilling and reskilling workers in key sectors such as technology, construction, and green energy.

"The demand for skilled workers has never

been higher, and FET is uniquely positioned to bridge the gap," Paddy Lavelle continued. "However, without investment in state-of-the-art facilities and digital innovation, we risk falling behind in meeting these demands."

Welcoming Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, James Lawless TD to the conference, ETBI reiterated the need for greater agility in releasing funds from the NTF to allow FET to expand, innovate, and deliver excellence. Paddy Lavelle stated: "Minister Lawless has been a strong advocate for workforce development and digital transformation, and ETBI is urging his leadership to ensure that FET receives the investment necessary to support both learners and industries across Ireland. The potential of Further Education and Training to transform lives and careers is clear. We are asking the Government to accelerate the unlocking of resources that have been accumulating in the National Training Fund and channel them directly into the FET sector."

Addressing FET personnel from across Ireland's 16 Education and Training Boards Minister Lawless said: "I am delighted that my Department has secured a €150 million investment from the National Training Fund over six years in innovative equipment and infrastructure for the FET sector, aimed at driving workforce transformation in key areas of our economy. It is an honour to be here today, and I look forward to working closely with the FET sector to deliver on government priorities and ensure we continue to meet the evolving needs of learners and employers."



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

SECTION 75 – ROADS ACT, 1993 PROVISION FOR TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF PUBLIC ROAD

Wicklow County Council hereby gives notice of the temporary closure of the following public roads.

Roads to be closed:

From the exit at the Roundabout on the R772 at Yellow Lane; Liam Mellows Avenue; The Navy Hill; Abbey Street; Back Street; Lower Main Street; Main Street, ending at the Junction at St. Mary's Road, Arklow.

Period of closure:

From 1:30pm to 3:00pm Monday 17th March, 2025.

Alternative Routes:

Access from Collins Street, Connolly Street Griffith Street via St. Mary's Road to Upper Main Street.

Access from Abbeyville; Abbey Heights; Abbey Park, Church View, Rory O'Connor Place via Harbour Court, turning left at Tinahask Lower, turn right to South Green towards South Quay, turn left towards R772, turning right onto Bridge.

Alternative route for Traffic accessing South of the town will be via Junction 21 (South) M11.

Traffic Management will be in place for the duration of the parade.

Reason for Closure:

To facilitate the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Linda Healy,
Senior Executive Officer,
Transportation & Infrastructure Delivery.



Whitmore visits Wicklow primary students at Science Blast

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore attended the ESB Science Blast last week, where primary schools from Wicklow showcased their impressive science projects. Deputy Whitmore expressed her admiration for the students' hard work and creativity, highlighting the importance of such events in fostering a love for science and innovation among young minds.

"The projects presented by Wicklow primary schools were truly impressive, and I could tell that a lot of work went into them. It was inspiring to see the enthusiasm and dedication of these young students," Deputy Whitmore said.

"Amongst the projects was the Glebe National School, Wicklow Town, project on why we need electricity to make machines work, highlighting the fundamental role of electricity in our daily lives. Scoil Na Coroine Mhuire, Ashford, explored what the water is safest to drink and what things can help people learn better," Deputy Whitmore explained.

The Scoil Naoimh Iosaf, Baltinglass, students who investigated how daily exercise influences mood and focus, and whether getting tired makes us less accurate in sports activities. Their findings highlighted the importance of physical activity for both mental and physical well-being. St. Peter's National



School, Bray, delved into why the cliff walk is closed, using a sugar cube demonstration to explain erosion, which was a very fun visual aid," Deputy Whitmore continued.

"The students from St. Gerard's, Bray, looked into whether the colour of a sweet influences its taste and had a blind taste test. They also had a project on whether we can discover and grow our creative thinking superpowers - very outside the box!" Deputy Whitmore added.

"Science Blast is an

incredibly important event as it encourages students to engage with science in a hands-on and meaningful way. It was truly inspiring for me to engage with these students and learn about their projects. Children have a unique perspective, and it is so important for policy-makers to engage with them," Deputy Whitmore noted.

"I know that other primary schools from Wicklow and across the country will be presenting at the event throughout the week and I wish them the best of luck

with their projects," Deputy Whitmore said.

"Events like Science Blast not only foster a love for science but also help develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills. These young scientists are our future, and it is crucial that we support and encourage their curiosity and innovation. I'd like to congratulate all the teams who took part and thank all the teachers who no doubt worked tirelessly behind the scenes," Deputy Whitmore concluded.





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Daria Larina and Tara Rose O'Brien at the Bray Institute of Further Education Open Day.

Wicklow students ready for National Entrepreneurship Final

Teenage entrepreneurs from Greystones Community College and Colaiste Bhride will represent Wicklow at this year's Student Enterprise Programme National Final in May, the Local Enterprise Office Wicklow has announced.

The students all took part in the County Wicklow final on 27th February, which was held at Clermont House, Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew. An estimated 140 students from 13 schools took part in the annual Award ceremony locally, while 18 schools and 1300 students participated in the six-month Enterprise programme.

The enterprise education initiative, funded by the Government of Ireland through Enterprise Ireland and deliv-

ered by the 31 Local Enterprise Offices around the country, saw over 30,000 students from just under 500 secondary schools take part in 2024/2025 event. The programme supports students to create, design and market their own business, all with the hope of reaching the National Final.

In the Junior Category, Wicklow will be represented by Leonardo O'Sullivan, Louis Dalton, Bastien Zapletal, and Donnchadh Eager O'Brien from iCrazy

Knots at Greystones Community College.

In the Intermediate Category, the student representing Wicklow at the National Final is Oisín Ward from 'NeuroLingo' at Greystones Community College.

In the Senior Category of the competition, Dominic O'Loughlin and Daniel Duffy from 'Vest Pro' at Colaiste Bhride will represent Wicklow at the National Final.

Special guests at the Wicklow Final included MC Noel Davidson, Cllr

Paul O'Brien, Cathaoirleach, Wicklow County Council, Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, and inspirational speaker Eoin Tuohy, founder of Sports Impact Technologies Ltd. based in Kilmacanogue. During the event the mini businesses are visited by a number of judges who assess their stand and their presentation, separately the business founders also deliver a business pitch in the Dragon's Den. There are over 7 prizes awarded in



Intermediate Winner from Greystones Community College, NeuroLingo. Pictured (L-R): Paul O'Brien, Cathaoirleach Wicklow County Council, teacher Isabel Murphy Vibeke Delahunt, Head of Enterprise, Local Enterprise Office, Student Oisín Ward, Leonora Earls, Director of Services, Wicklow County Council.

addition to the overall prizes, these range from Best Innovation, Best Intellectual Property, Best Sales and Mark-

eting, Best Stand and Best Presentation. (See full list below)

Speaking at the county final, Cllr Paul O'Brien said: "I'm so impressed by the variety and high standard of the mini companies on show here. You can tell that this was a great learning experience for the students who present their products with such confidence and flair. The future is bright for our next generation of entrepreneurs!"

Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, commented: "Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and it's inspiring to see young people developing practical solutions to real-world problems. These students have shown that entrepreneurship isn't just about big ideas - it's about finding smart, workable solutions that make a difference. I'm excited to see how they represent Wicklow at the National Finals on 8th

May in Mullingar."

Head of Enterprise, Vibeke Delahunt of Local Enterprise Office Wicklow, congratulated the students, saying: "We have a very successful student enterprise programme here in Wicklow, with over 1300 students from 18 local schools taking part this year. Our national finalists are excellent ambassadors for the programme and we wish them the very best of luck on the 8th May, and we will all hope to be there to support them. What our students are learning from the programme is that with the right supports and encouragement, they can take an idea from the classroom and develop it into a real-life business. The skills they learn along the way, such as business planning, market research, selling and teamwork, will help them become more entrepreneurial throughout their future careers."

The Wicklow students will be competing against hundreds of other student entrepreneurs from all over Ireland at the Student Enterprise Programme National Final which takes place in the Mullingar Park Hotel on the 8th May.

Since the Student Enterprise Programme began in 2003, over 380,000 students have taken part, learning key skills on how to create a business idea, start a business and grow a business. The Student Enterprise Programme also has a new range of online resources for 2024/2025 at www.StudentEnterprise.ie which will feature regular blogs and houses a full range of Student Enterprise resources for students and teachers.

Further information around the Student Enterprise Programme is available from www.studententerprise.ie and by searching #studententerprise on social media.



Senior Winners from Colaiste Bhride - Vest Pro. From L-R: Paul O'Brien, Cathaoirleach, Wicklow County Council, students Dominic O'Loughlin and Daniel Duffy, Vibeke Delahunt, Head of Enterprise, Local Enterprise Office, teacher Ms. Mary Rothwell and Leonora Earls, Director of Services, Wicklow County Council.



Junior Winners from Greystones Community College - 'Crazy Knots'. From L-R: Cllr. Paul O'Brien, Cathaoirleach Wicklow County Council, teacher Ms. Isabel Murphy, students Leonardo O'Sullivan, Louis Dalton, Bastien Zapletal and Donnchadh Eager O'Brien, Vibeke Delahunt - Head of Enterprise, Local Enterprise Office, Leonora Earls - Director of Services, Wicklow County Council.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

SECTION 75 – ROADS ACT, 1993 PROVISION FOR TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF PUBLIC ROAD

Wicklow County Council hereby gives notice of the temporary closure of the following public roads.

Road to be closed:

R750 Main Street, Wicklow Town, from the Junction at Station Road to Market Square.

Period of closure:

2.30 p.m. until 6.00 p.m. Monday 17th March 2025.

Alternative Routes:

From R750: left onto Port access road (R999) over the bridge turning left onto South Quay.

From Castle Street: Turn right onto Castle Street, left onto Quarantine Hill, right onto South Quay.

Reason for Closure:

This closure is to facilitate the St. Patrick's Day parade.

Linda Healy,
Senior Executive Officer,
Transportation & Infrastructure Delivery.

18th South Wicklow Drama Festival

St. Brigid's Hall Carnew. Friday 14th March - Saturday 22nd March

Adjudicator: Declan Drohan ADA

The 18th South Wicklow Drama Festival will take place in St. Brigid's Hall, Carnew from Friday the 14th of March to Saturday the 22nd of March, 2025. The Committee once again has a wonderful and varied line up of plays with many of the local groups from Counties Wexford and Wicklow along with groups from Counties Waterford, Armagh, Tipperary.

Line-up

Nightly at 8pm except final night - 7.30pm start.

Friday 14th March - Brideview Drama Group - *The Weir* by Conor McPherson (sponsored by Kenny's Corner House).

Saturday 15th March - Tinahely Drama Group - *Thy Will be Done* by Michael Carey (sponsored by Fitzgerald Kitchens)

Sunday 16th March - Lislea - *Dead Guilty* by Richard Harris (sponsored by South East Security and Safety Ltd)

Monday 17th March - Thurles - Rathmines Road by Deirdre Kinahan (sponsored by K&K Windows, Craanford).

Tuesday 18th March - Kilmuckridge Drama Group - *Juno and the Paycock* - by Sean O'Casey (sponsored by Maxol Candy's Carnew)

Wednesday 19th March - Bridge Players - *The Curious incident of the dog in the night time* by Simon Stephens (sponsored by Boggan Motors, Gorey & Wexford)

Thursday 20th March - Kilrush Drama Group - *Bailegangaire* by Tom Murphy (sponsored by Jim Byrne's Bar & Lounge).

Friday 21st March - Bunclody Drama Group - *The Beacon* by Nancy Harris (Sponsored by Quinn Property Carnew & Gorey)

Saturday 22nd March - Wexford Drama Group - *Skylight* by David Hare (Sponsored by Osborne's Centra, Carnew)

The 18th South Wicklow Drama Festival will take place in St. Brigid's Hall, Carnew from Friday the 14th of March to Saturday the 22nd of March, 2025. The Committee once again has a wonderful and varied line up of plays with many of the local groups from Counties Wexford and Wicklow along with groups from Counties Waterford, Armagh, Tipperary.

This is the 20th Anniversary of South Wicklow Drama Festival, having formed in 2005. Since the opening of the first festival in 2005, 160 Productions have partaken in the Festival, including Drama groups from many of the 32 counties. The Festival Committee are thrilled to announce that one of Ireland's favourite broadcaster's, RTE's very own Joe Duffy, will open our Festival on Friday the 14th of March. We also have a few surprises planned, to ensure that our 2025 Festival will be a special one.

The festival launch took place in Jim Byrne's Lounge on Thursday 27th February. The committee were delighted to welcome the retired School Principal, Linda Dunne. Linda was Principal of

Colaiste Bhride, Carnew from 2001 to 2024 during which time she not alone encouraged the academic progress of students, but also supported and encouraged them in both sports and the Arts, including drama, acknowledging the benefits of drama in their cultural and personal development. In 2018, South Wicklow Drama Festival hosted the 66th ADCI Confined All Ireland Finals in Carnew.

"Thanks to Linda and the staff of Colaiste Bhride, we were able to host the Welcome Dinner for the event in the School, which was a huge advantage, as the School is located opposite St. Brigid's Hall. SWDF are also ever grateful to Colaiste Bhride for allowing the use of their grounds for car parking for our festival. Linda has many strings to her bow and became nationally famous when she crowned The Calor Kosangas Housewife of the Year in 1985. Now that Linda is retired, she has a bit more time for golf and this year is Lady Captain in Coolattin Golf Club. We wish her well for her term as Lady Captain."

Linda said she was honoured to be asked to launch the festival and



The South Wicklow Drama Festival Committee: Mary Doyle, Ciaran Tyrrell, Jacqui Mulhall, Kevin McEvoy, Lorna Doran-McEvoy, Debbie Furlong, Eamon Doran and Mary Doran at the launch of the South Wicklow Drama Festival in Jim Byrne's, Carnew.

spoke about the benefits of the collaboration between the Drama Group and the School and benefits to students to have the Drama Festival on their doorstep and access to so many productions. She also spoke about how being involved in drama helped to give students great confidence. She also pointed out that next to sport in Ireland, drama and musicals have the highest number of people involved in the country.

Adjudicator: Declan Drohan A.D.A.

Declan Drohan M.A. H.Dip.Ad.Ed. currently lectures on the BA Hons. Programme in Performing Arts at Atlantic Technological University

Sligo, and the multidisciplinary MA in Creative Practice. A graduate of the Gaiety School Of Acting, he is the former course leader of the acting programme at T.U.D.'s prestigious Conservatory Of Music and Drama, Rathmines, Dublin. In a thirty year career, his work as a director has encompassed everything from radical reappraisals of classical texts to stagings of new writing and innovative community based projects integrating individuals with often profound disabilities into large scale, mainstream theatre projects, and fourteen years as Senior Youth Theatre Director at the Glens Centre, Manorhamilton where he serves as a board member.

For the past seven years, his directing of the Yeats Project has become a major outreach project for the BA Honours programme at ATU Sligo, with performances of the texts in the college's own Black Box Space, the Yeats Building, Sligo and the Glens Centre, Manorhamilton. He has completed training with international Faculty from MCE and MICHA in Michael Chekhov Technique. He offers workshops in acting and directing and specialised training in the Micheal Chekhov Technique.

The Chairman and Committee of South Wicklow Drama Festival are delighted to welcome Declan as Adjudicator for the 2025 Festival.

Tickets

Patron Tickets for the Festival are available from any of the Festival Committee, from Mark Kennedy in Hall's Shop, Main Street, Carnew; Carnew Training & Consultancy Centre. Purchasing a patron ticket enables you to see all nine of the following plays for just €50.

The standard of amateur drama throughout the country is very high and it is once again a privilege to bring quality performances to the stage in Carnew, and we congratulate Kilrush Drama Group who went on to win the All Ireland Drama Finals (Confined) in Mountmellick last year.



Kevin McEvoy, Linda Dunne, Debbie Furlong and Eamon Doran at the launch of the South Wicklow Drama Festival in Jim Byrne's, Carnew.

Carnew Community Art Exhibition

In association with the South Wicklow Drama Festival, Carnew Community Art Group will hold their annual Art Exhibition in Roberts' Garage Adjacent to St. Brigid's Hall which will open on Thursday evening the 13th of March at 7pm, and will be open nightly during the Festival which runs until Saturday 22nd of March. It will also be open from 2 - 4pm on Friday 14th, Saturday 15th, Wednesday 19th and Friday 21st of March.

The Art Group are forever grateful to Anne Kavanagh, Manager and to the committee and staff of Carnew Community Care for the wonderful venue where they meet for Art every week and for their support and help throughout the year. The theme of this year's exhibition is Carnew and the group is delighted to announce that the Art Exhibition will be opened by the very talented Kate McMeehan, the group's Art Teacher.

In her own words "Kate was born, bred and buttered in Belfast, studied both in London and France, and now lives in Carlow with kids, dogs, cats and an awful lot of books. She paints, prints and writes very short stories when "real life" doesn't get in the way".

Kate studied French with philosophy at University College London and later completed a Master's Degree in Textual and Visual Studies between Trinity College Dublin and Université

Paris VII.

Having not been allowed to do art at school, she travelled the long way around and worked (amongst other things) as a librarian, an artists' model, waiting tables, and editing a review for visual and experimental poetry before she began drawing and painting at 30. Kate's meandering and unconventional career path has, time and time again, cemented the belief that art and creativity are a fundamental part of Being Human. She now teaches painting, works with Youth Services and is about to qualify as a Creative Therapist. Her work can be found on Instagram @hogshair. The members of Carnew Community Art Group are extremely privileged to have found Kate to teach them every Friday morning.

Tea and Cakes will be served at the location of the Art Exhibition after the Parade in Carnew on St. Patrick's day.

Naomi Berrill Trio

Whale Theatre, Sunday 16th March, 4pm (doors 3pm)
Tickets €20/€18 and available at www.whaletheatre.ie
or call the booking office on 01 2010550.

Naomi Berrill is an Irish cellist, multi-instrumentalist, composer and singer-songwriter based in Florence.

She has explored the potential of the cello as an accompanying instrument to the voice, composing and arranging songs, always leaving room for improvisation. Her performances and collaborations span different genres and artistic disciplines.

Her trio with Lorenzo Pellegrini (guitar, vocals, synth) and Andrea Beninati (cello, synth and percussion) masterfully blends the intense power of three multi-instrumentalists, creating an evocative live performance which has conquered audiences in the jazz, songwriter and classical worlds.

Her latest album "Inish" was released in October 2023,

and the album marks an exciting new chapter in Berrill's already prolific career.

In this album, Berrill's experimental approach to cello continues to explore new frontiers across multiple genres. Breaking from her practice as a solo artist, Inish marks Berrill's first collaborative album with producer, guitarist and vocalist Lorenzo Pellgrini and drummer/cellist Andrea Beninati.

Operating as a three-piece is a new performing experience for Berrill, and it calls forth something contemporary and exciting; a fresh combination of folk, classical and jazz where her fluid and ethereal vocals-imbued with the accompanying colours of Pellegrini and Beninati-create music that is at once evocative and powerful. Jazz standards and traditional Irish airs sit alongside innovative interpretations of baroque and classical styles.



Naomi Berrill. Photo by Edoardo DeLille.

Eric Lalor: LOL'er By Nature

Friday 14th March 8pm (doors 7pm) Tickets €20 available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550.



Award-winning Eric Lalor is one of the most sought after comedians in the country. Having started way back on Des Bishop's Joy in the Hood, Eric has gone on to forge a successful career in comedy, appearing at all the major comedy festivals and headlining venues up and down the country.

Some people will recognise him as the villain from Fair City, the gangster, Cathal Spillane. Indeed Eric has a number of acting credits including Amber, Brigid & Eamonn, The Commute and COVID based comedy, Socially Distant, plus a number of short films.

He has won Irish comedian of the year twice as voted by the readers of entertainment.ie, and now his new podcast, You Must Be Jokin, which he co-hosts with fellow Ballymunner, Willa White, has won Best Podcast at the Digital Media Awards.

Having recently sold out his new one man show, Lol'er By Nature at the Liberty Hall Theatre, Eric is at the top of his game and one of the most reliable comedy acts in the country.

Glory Days - Bruce Springsteen Tribute

Whale Theatre, Saturday 15th March 8pm (doors 7pm) Tickets €28 and available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550.

Glory Days: The Ultimate Springsteen Experience are coming to the Whale Theatre! Get ready for an unforgettable night as Ireland's premier Bruce Springsteen tribute band, bring the magic of "The Boss" to Greystones on Saturday, March 15th.

For many years, Glory Days have thrilled audiences in theatres, festivals, and large venues across Ireland, capturing the raw energy, passion, and soul of Bruce Springsteen and the legendary E Street Band. With a powerhouse performance that includes all the hits-Born to Run, Dancing in the Dark, Thunder Road, Hungry Heart - and fan favourites from Springsteen's extensive catalogue. Glory Days delivers a live show that's as close to the real thing as it gets. The band's dedication to recreating the classic Springsteen sound has earned them a reputation as the must-see tribute act for fans of the rock and roll icon.



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Pictured are members of the Session 55 music group which meets on Fridays in Ashford Heritage Centre from 11am to 1pm. The group is for amateur musicians aged over 55.

An Post unveils St. Patrick's Festival stamp set

An Post has issued a set of four colourful stamps to mark the St Patrick's Festival and the national holiday which honours the feast day (March 17th) of our patron saint, St. Patrick.

The stamps showcase the theme of this year's festival of Irish arts, culture, and heritage in Dublin city centre: 'Adventures (Eachtraí)' represents the famed and legendary adventurous spirit known and loved the world wide as a defining symbol of Irishness. The stamps were recently unveiled by Ministers Patrick O'Donovan and Charlie McConalogue at the GPO.

The stamp also acknowledges a generations long tradition of St Patrick's Day being marked

by local events and parades all over the country, including Dublin's iconic St Patrick's Day Parade, when thousands perform and as many as half a million people line the streets of the capital city to view the spectacle.

The Irish public knows very well the story of St Patrick banishing snakes from Ireland. Today, the image of a snake has become integral to St Patrick's Festival. Creative design incorporates the snake into a set of four stamps capturing the

event's fun, energy, and playfulness. The various colourful elements evoke the exciting cultural and community activities organised as part of St Patrick's Festival each year.

Designed by Irish agency Detail, the set features sheet of four 'W' rate stamps for international posting and a specially designed First Day Cover envelope, which makes for a great gift when framed, are available in selected post offices nationwide and online at anpost.com/shop.

Minister for Arts,



Culture, Communications, Media and Sport, Patrick O'Donovan TD said "I welcome An Post issuing a set of stamps to mark the St. Patrick's Festival, our national holiday. The stamp programme and designs are the culmination of a lot of hard work throughout the year by An Post's philatelic committee, working through numerous suggestions and design proposals. I was delighted to be able to bring these designs to Government for their approval, and we all thank An Post for the beautiful designs we see on show here today."

Minister of State with responsibility for Sport and Postal Policy, Charlie McConalogue TD said "I thank An Post for the wonderful Stamp design for St. Patrick's Day, incorporating the wider St. Patrick's Festival, which will be a week-long celebration of Irish Culture and Heritage. The stamp is a fitting accompaniment to the festival, with the artwork recognising a piece of mythos in Irish tradition. An Post's design helps celebrate our ancient heritage and culture in a modern way through contemporary artists."

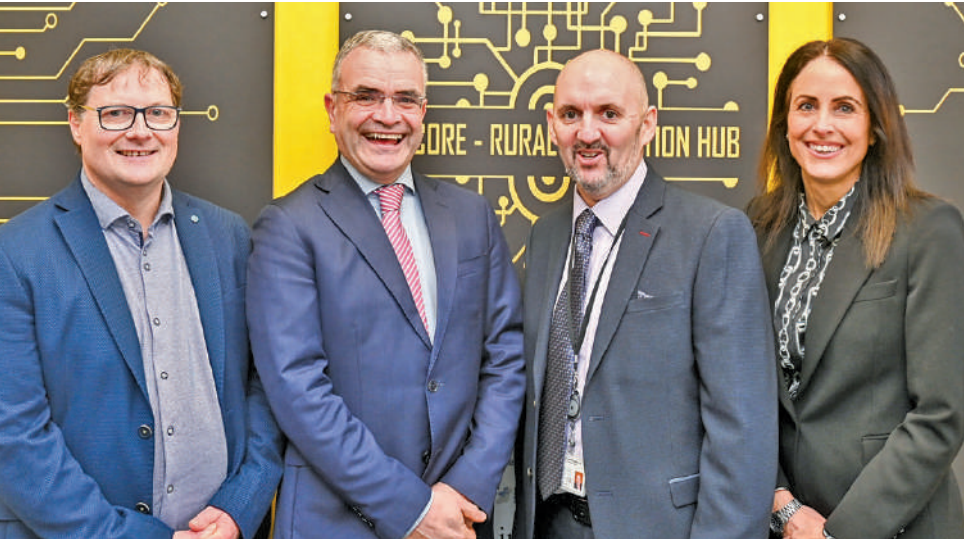
Kieran Mulvey, Chairperson of An Post said "We are delighted to issue St Patrick's Festival stamps for our customers to use and enjoy ahead of St Patrick's Day. We know that many families and friends will post cards and care parcels to loved ones living abroad who might be missing a taste of home right about now. In the lead to our national holiday, I encourage everyone to get your stamps and get posting. Our stamps and latest dates of posting for delivery worldwide are

on anpost.com/shop."

Richard Tierney, CEO of St. Patrick's Festival said "We are delighted with the launch of this beautiful new stamp selection by An Post, available ahead of the Festival celebrations this March 15th, 16th & 17th. We know how important the festival is to our Irish diaspora all over the world and so feel extremely privileged that St. Patrick's Festival will be involved in communications across the globe this March, as people near and far celebrate our national day."

Rural innovation hub launched in Hacketstown

South East Technological University (SETU), in collaboration with Carlow County Council and Carlow Community Enterprise Centres CLG, has launched Station House, a new rural innovation hub in Hacketstown, County Carlow.



Pictured L-R, are: Brian Ogilvie, SETU Head of Entrepreneurship and Rural Engagement, Deputy Dara Calleary, Minister for Rural and Community Development, Kieran Comerford, Head of Economic Development & Enterprise, Carlow County Council, and Prof. Marie Claire Van Hout, SETU Vice President for Research, Innovation and Impact.

hubs which SETU is developing under the TU-RISE initiative in the South East region. SETU's experience in fostering rural innovation has shown that these hubs are more than just spaces; they are catalysts for economic growth, equipping micro, small, and medium enterprises with the skills, technology, and networks needed to compete in an increasingly fast-paced global economy."

Station House has been developed through a partnership approach, bringing together key stakeholders to support rural enterprise.

Colin O'Reilly, Chief Executive of Carlow County Council, said:

"Enterprise spaces and rural hubs are crucial for fostering entrepreneurship and economic resilience. Carlow County Council is proud to deliver this project in partnership with Carlow Community Enterprise Centres CLG, with funding from the Town & Village Renewal Scheme. This investment has also enabled an exciting collaboration with TU RISE at South East Technological

University, strengthening the support ecosystem for enterprise development. Station House is a flagship example of how strategic partnerships can drive meaningful opportunities for rural communities, ensuring businesses have

the space, resources, and support to start, scale, and succeed."

SETU encourages business owners to take advantage of the opportunities available through Station House and the broader TU RISE initiative.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Arc Design seeks full planning permission on behalf Patrick and Deborah Gorry for the development at 11 Dromont, Kindlestown Upper, Delgany, County Wicklow, A63 A977. The development comprises of alterations and renovations to existing house comprising of modifications to elevations, plans and conversion of attached garage into habitable space. The proposed house modifications work shall increase house from four bedroom to five-bedroom house. And, all associated site development, drainage and landscaping works to facilitate the development. The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours. The planning application may be viewed online at www.wicklow.ie, under planning online enquires. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20, within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the planning authority in making a decision on the application. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.

PUBLIC NOTICE

EVENT LICENSE APPLICATION

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

CUPOLA EVENTS LTD. of 35 North Lotts, Dublin 1, give notice of intent to apply to Wicklow County Council within the next two week period for a license to hold an outdoor music event in accordance with part XVI of the Planning Development Act 2000 (as amended). Beyond The Pale will comprise of live musical & arts entertainment with associated camping to be held at Glendalough Estate, Co. Wicklow on Friday 13th June, Saturday 14th June and Sunday 15th June 2025 with entertainment from 4.00pm on Friday June 13th to 1:00am on Monday June 16th. Associated parking and campsites will be available from 12.00pm on Friday June 13th until 3.00pm on Monday June 16th. The event will have a maximum attendance of 12,000 persons plus 1000 staff and artistes with camping for a maximum of 12,000 persons

The license application may be inspected at the offices of Wicklow County Council during office hours for a 5-week period from the date of receipt of the application. Submissions or observations may be made to Wicklow County Council within a 3-week period from the date of the receipt of the application.

Signed: Cupola Events LTD
Date: 3rd March 2025

The initiative is part of SETU's TU RISE programme, designed to strengthen regional enterprise by connecting businesses with university expertise and support.

As the only university in the region, SETU is committed to driving research and innovation that delivers real impact. Station House is the first of four rural innovation hubs being developed under TU RISE, creating dedicated spaces for enterprise owners to engage with SETU and its partners. The hub will provide opportunities to develop key skills in areas such as innovation, digitalisation, succession planning, and sustainability.

Brian Ogilvie, Head of Entrepreneurship and Rural Engagement at SETU, said: "This initiative offers business owners outside of the main urban areas access to SETU's expertise and support. The hub will play an

instrumental role in empowering the area, equipping it with the necessary tools and skills for sustainable growth. SETU is committed to working with industry, ensuring that regional businesses can leverage cutting-edge research and enterprise support to help grow their business."

By bringing together university resources, partner organisations, and the expertise of local business owners, Station House will serve as a key asset to the local community.

Professor Marie Claire Van Hout, Vice President for Research, Innovation and Impact at SETU, highlighted the hub's role in supporting economic growth: "This endeavour aligns with SETU's mission to drive progress, nurture economic growth, and elevate the competitiveness of the region. Station House is the first of four rural-based

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Simon Moore seeks permission and retention permission for: Permission for Single Storey extension to rear of existing dwelling along with Retention Permission for Rooflight on Front Slope of Existing Roof at 45 Waverly Avenue, Blacklion, Greystones, Co. Wicklow A63KW64. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

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Wicklow represented at 2025 Nordic trade workshop in Denmark

Ireland was promoted to 40 top tour operators and travel agents from Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland - at Tourism Ireland's 2025 Nordic trade workshop, which took place in Copenhagen.

Twenty-five tourism companies from Ireland - including Russborough House - took part in the workshop, meeting and doing business with the Nordic travel professionals, to inspire them to extend their Ireland offering, or to include Ireland for the first time, in their programmes for 2025 and beyond. Around 625 commercial meetings were conducted at the event.

The workshop provided a valuable opportunity for Tourism Ireland and its partners to remind the Nordic travel professionals all about the many great things to see and do around Ireland - including our great food

and drink offering, fantastic accommodation options, attractions and outdoor experiences.

Sarah Dee, Tourism Ireland's Manager for the Nordic Region, said: "We're delighted that so many key Nordic travel professionals have taken the time to come and meet with our partners from Ireland in Copenhagen, to find out more about our superb tourism offering. Our aim is to connect our partners from Ireland with the influential Nordic tour operators and travel agents who bring valuable tourists to Ireland."



(Front, L-R) Sarah Dee, Tourism Ireland; Jill Robins, Russborough House; Ronan Mackey, Newbridge Silverware; (back, L-R) Stephen Tuite, Original Irish Hotels; Michelle Campion, Select Hotels of Ireland; Fiona Delahunty, Griffin Group; and Anne Kenny, Tourwise Ireland, at Tourism Ireland's Nordic workshop in Copenhagen.

International Workplace Group plans to open new Wicklow location

International Workplace Group, the world's largest provider of hybrid working solutions with brands including Spaces, Regus, and HQ is planning to opening four new state-of-the-art flexible workspaces across Ireland in Citywest, Dublin 24, Balbriggan, Co Dublin, Bray and Limerick.

As the adoption of hybrid working rapidly accelerates across Ireland, the number of enquiries for flexible office space in International Workplace Group locations has risen sharply and these new openings help meet the rising demand. The addition of International Workplace Group's loca-

tions in Dublin, Wicklow and Limerick come on the heels of the business post-ing its highest-ever revenue, cashflow and earnings growth in its history and achieving rapid network growth, signing 465 new locations in the first half of 2024 alone.

A 10,000 sq.ft Regus branded business centre

will open at the former Oriflame facility in the IDA Business Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray and will be operated under a managed client agreement. Regus in Bray will provide a stunning workspace just a stone's throw from South county Dublin, Bray town and Grey-stones just off the M11. The business centre will have a variety of private offices, meeting rooms, business lounge and co-working workspaces designed to spark innovation and inspiration.

Many Irish building owners are investing in the International Workplace Group platform to maximise the return on their real estate space by capitalising on the rapidly expanding demand for hybrid working. With an annual investment of

around £50m into its global technology platform, International Workplace Group provides partners with access to all the company's expertise as well as design and fit-out support and sales and marketing capabilities.

Mark Dixon, CEO & Founder of International Workplace Group PLC,

commented: "We are establishing a stronger and much-needed footprint in Ireland with four new locations across the country. The need for high-quality flexible workspaces continues to soar as hybrid working becomes the new normal. We are very pleased to be working with property owners across Ireland to

develop the Regus, Spaces and HQ brands under management agreements that will add a cutting-edge workspaces to their building.

"Our new locations in Dublin, Wicklow and Limerick come at a time when more and more companies are discovering that flexible working boosts employee happi-

ness and satisfaction, while helping the environment. Our workplace model is also proven to increase productivity and allows for a business to scale up or down at significantly reduced costs."

With explosive market growth as companies of all sizes adopt hybrid working for the long-term, it is predicted that 30% of all commercial real estate will be flexible workspace by 2030. With International Workplace Group, partners are able to capitalise on this fast-growing sector, while being supported by International Workplace Group's unparalleled experience. Hybrid working offers companies a significantly lower cost base with an average saving of €11,000 per employee.



A 10,000 sq.ft Regus branded business centre will open at the former Oriflame facility in the IDA Business Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray.

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