

LOCAL Wicklow Times

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Tuesday 17th June 2025 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

CLIFF WALK OR CRAWL?

An economic study commissioned by the Friends of the Cliff Walk which was conducted by the economist, Jim Power, concluded that the impact of 4 years of closure was that over €73 million has been lost to the national economy, based on €18.3m annual spending by 350,000 Cliff Walk users, equating to over €50,000 per day. Over €21 million has been lost to the Exchequer, based on an annual tax take of €5.3 million. €14 million has been lost to the north Wicklow economy, based on annualised spending there of €3.5 million. Local spending by walkers would support 77 jobs, delivering €1.54 million wage injection to local economy.

Reacting to this report, Wicklow County Council issued a statement saying "It is of great concern to Wicklow County Council to learn there is a report stating that the closure of sections of the Cliff

Walk between Greystones and Bray have resulted in a contraction of economic activity in Greystones, and even more concerning that it is being reported that it is affecting individual businesses. Wicklow County Council was not

involved in the preparation of the report and the Chief Executive has not received a copy.

Wicklow County Council have initiated the procurement of independent consultants to assess the safety issues relating to the Bray



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Evie Belton at the Brittias Bay National School garden plants and cake sale. Pic: Michael Kelly.

Greystones Cliff Walk and to advise on both short term and a long term sustainable solution. The tender process requires a standstill period, which was extended in accordance with statutory procedures. In accordance with the procurement process the successful consultant will be appointed in the coming week, if no further queries or observations are received, and will commence work immediately. Wicklow County Council will then seek the considerable resources that will be required for a sustainable solution, which may include permanent re-routing of the walk.

"Wicklow County Council only closed the sections of the Cliff Walk that were dangerous and only where the safety concerns left no alternative. In the meantime, Wicklow

County Council have signposted an alternative walk from Greystones to Bray utilising other pathways on Bray Head.

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Emer O Gorman, stated that the consultants will advise as to whether there are any feasible immediate actions that could be undertaken relatively quickly in order to reopen the route to the public such that it could be deemed safe to do so."

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Cllr. Paul O'Brien stated "Wicklow County Council as part of the cliff walk taskforce are working together to drive the re-opening of the Bray Greystones Cliff Walk."

Friends of the Cliff Walk responded to the statement by Wicklow County Council saying,

"We note that Wicklow County Council has issued a public state-

ment about the Cliff Walk, four years and some five months after

closing the Walk, which is a public right of way.

Continued on page 3

MARK FELTON Mental Health Capacity Lawyer of the Year

We are proud to share that Mark Felton, Partner at Amorys Solicitors LLP, has been recognised with the **Mental Health and Capacity Lawyer of the Year Award** at the prestigious **LEAP Irish Law Awards 2025**. The awards ceremony, held on June 6th at Dublin's Clayton Hotel, celebrated top legal professionals across Ireland, with Mark's win highlighting his exceptional leadership and commitment in this specialised legal area. Mark Felton's award reflects his long-standing expertise and unwavering dedication to supporting clients facing mental health and capacity challenges. Mark Felton has been a solicitor since 1992, with a wealth of experience spanning conveyancing, family law, and notably mental health and capacity law. His profound knowledge of the Mental Health Act, Wards of Court procedures, and Enduring Powers of Attorney has made him a leading advocate for vulnerable individuals in Ireland.

Mark actively contributes to the legal community as a member of the Law Society Mental Health and Capacity Task Force and as a founding member of the Irish Mental Health Lawyers Association. He also holds a Master's degree in Law from University College Cork, focusing on mental health and disability legislation.

This award is a fitting recognition of the dedication and expertise that Mark Felton brings to Amorys Solicitors' mental health and capacity law practice. His work ensures that clients receive knowledgeable and compassionate legal representation in complex matters affecting their rights and wellbeing. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Mark Felton for this significant achievement at the LEAP Irish Law Awards 2025. His success underscores the commitment Amorys Solicitors LLP makes every day to deliver excellent legal support. For enquiries related to Mark Felton's areas of expertise or to learn more about our services, please get in touch with Amorys Solicitors at www.amorysolicitors.com.

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Greystones book fair

There will be a book fair in St. Patrick's Church Greystones on Saturday June 21st from 10.30 until 3.00. Entry Fee €15 to cover Coffee/Tea/Treat and as many books as you want. Great value! Come early, bring a friend and spend time browsing in pleasant surroundings.

Bray Cualann Historical Society

The next meeting of the Bray Cualann Historical Society, the local history for Bray and North Wicklow, is on Thursday June 19th at 8pm in the Royal Hotel, Bray, at which Tom Keohé will give a talk on 'Rathdown Ploughing' and Robert Butler on 'The Arcadia Ballroom, Bray'. All are welcome - admission is €8 for non-members. Those wishing to join the Society can do so at this meeting.

Greystones Archaeological & Historical Society Summer Outing

On 29th June there will be a Walking Tour of Liberties Weavers and Chester Beatty Library, two wonderful guided tours in Dublin. Liberties Weavers, light lunch and then Chester Beatty Library. Bus leaves Greystones Railway Station at 9.30am on the Sunday morning. Cost is €55 for Members, €65 for Non Members, to include light lunch. Early booking is recommended as spaces are limited and the outing is popular. Please text Joan Jones, 086 3061855, or email joankjones@gmail.com.

Annual Mass in Redford Cemetery

Special Annual Mass will be held in Redford Cemetery I Greystones at 8pm, 27th June. This is always a well attended event, remembering those who have gone before us. Please spread the word to family and friends who may have moved from Greystones. All welcome.

Laragh GFC Clubhouse Opening with David Cullen Cup Day

This year's David Cullen Cup on 29th June will be made even more special than usual as it will coincide with the official opening of Laragh GFC's clubhouse development. On the day there will be a BBQ, ice-cream, live music, kids games & inflatables, and a monster raffle with some fantastic prizes! All our teams will be in action throughout the day also. Official opening by GAA president Jarlath Burns at 12pm. There will be something for everyone on the day! "We would like to invite the entire community down to the field to help us commemorate the life of David Cullen and to celebrate the opening of the clubhouse!"

Celebrations all round at Greystones Active Retirement 25th Anniversary

There was a magical atmosphere during the afternoon as Members dined and danced. Special hand made cards were left at each table for Members to sign their names. These cards will join the memorabilia of GARA Greystones as a memento of the day and of all who attended.

Twenty five years for an active retirement association is no mean feat. Special thanks were extended by Chairman Sadie O'Shea to guests former Chairmen Tom Hillery and Emmet McGarry.

Over many years, GARA Greystones has been a leading force for the over 55s in the Greystones area. The group offers weekly activities, coffee mornings with notable speakers, special lunches, outings and holidays. GARA Greystones always welcomes new ideas and new Members.

Although on a summer break, two outings are being organised, one each in July and August.

Details will be forthcoming shortly. Most GARA activities have finished for the season, but Chair Yoga continues until the end of June. Each Monday at 1.15 pm in Kilian House, behind Holy Rosary Church. The annual holiday, this year to the Radisson Blu Hotel in Sligo, leaves Greystones on 22 June 2025 for four nights.

Chairman Sadie O'Shea extended warm appreciation to all for coming along, to Tommy Carroll for the toe tapping music and to the Parkview Hotel Newtownmountkennedy for the hospitality, and John McGowan for the photos.



GARA Greystones Chairman Sadie O'Shea, former Chairman Tom Hillery, Kathleen Redmond, Kathleen Kelleher. Photo by John McGowan.

Delgany & District Horticultural Society Rose Show

Delgany & District Horticultural Society's Annual Rose Show will be held at our usual venue in St Patrick's Primary School on Church Road, Greystones on Saturday 28th June between 3.00pm and 5.00pm.

This show also features a wide range of plants, vegetables and sweet peas together with roses of various hues. There are classes for novices and children as well. There may be plants for sale depending on the weather. Teas are served during the show.

New members and exhibitors are very welcome. All exhibits must be staged before 11.30am on the day of the show. Staging is available from 6.00-7.00pm on the Friday before the show or on the morning of the show from 9.00-11.30am. Entries must be advised to the Show Secretary in advance preferably by email at ddhs.showentries@gmail.com.

Further details may be found on our Facebook page entitled Delgany and District Horticultural Society.



Catherine Coveney and Cora Swan in Delgany in Delgany.

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WICKLOW
LOCAL Times

is published by Wicklow Times,
First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01-2869111

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'KEEP HERBERT ROAD OPEN' GROUP INVITED TO ADDRESS BRAY COUNCIL

Invitation to activists proposed by Cllr. Joe Behan and seconded by Cllr. Malachai Duddy for Bray Municipal District to give an official forum to place on record the problems with closing the Herbert Road/N11 Junction

Activists are seeking to stop the proposed closure of the Herbert Road/N11 Junction in the face of advancing proposals from Transport Infrastructure Ireland. The former Green Party Minister for Transport Mr. Éamon Ryan cut funding for the N11/M11 upgrade in 2022 in favour of a Bus Priority Interim Scheme being rolled out to prioritise bus and coach traffic. This Scheme would see the closure of the Herbert Road/N11 Junction over fears of cars colliding with buses using the Bus Priority Lane at that junction. It is not proposed to close other junctions which likewise have potential for collisions with buses.

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closure of the Herbert Road/N11 Junction over fears of cars colliding with buses using the Bus Priority Lane at that junction. It is not proposed to close other junctions which likewise have

potential for collisions with buses.

Cllr. Behan proposed that the local Council should invite campaigners to the next BrayMunicipal District Council Meeting in July to place on the

public record the obvious failures of the proposal.

Cllr. Malachai Duddy seconded the proposal stating that "ultimately the decision to close the Herbert Road/N11 Junction stems from a government deci-

sion which will have to be reversed. Basing the closure on 'potential' collisions between cars and buses seems weak, when at the other junctions this argument is dismissed. The Herbert Road/N11 Junction must be kept open."

Tánaiste, Simon Harris, has met Bray Residents and gave his full support for the campaign to prevent the closure of

Herbert Road. He described any plans to close it as both "crazy" and "poorly thought out".

Simon Harris told residents that he will seek a meeting with his Cabinet colleague, Minister for Transport Darragh O'Brien, along with fellow Oireachtas members in Wicklow.

He also assured the residents that he has been actively engaging with

Wicklow County Council and Transport Infrastructure Ireland in outlining in the strongest possible terms his absolute opposition to this road closure.

The meeting was organised by Fine Gael councillor Melanie Corrigan and attended by local residents and campaigners, along with Fine Gael Councillors Louise Fenelon Gaskin and Ned Whelan.

Doctors to be punished for criticising Covid policy

A medical assembly took place at the Irish Medical Council last Tuesday, with a petition of 5,000 signatures handed to the Irish Medical Council calling for the protection of Irish doctors who spoke out against covid policy.

In April 2020, at the height of the Covid crisis, Dr Marcus de Brun resigned from the Irish Medical Council (IMC) in protest. He had witnessed the deadly consequences of what he considered a reckless policy: transferring untested hospital patients into nursing homes, putting the most vulnerable at risk.

A petition launched in support of Dr de Brun,

Wexford GP Dr Billy Ralph, Limerick based Dr Pat Morrissey and other doctors who spoke was launched on May 29th. Since then, more than 5,000 people have pledged their support of these doctors by signing the petition.

Dr de Brun, who has been under investigation for almost four years, faces losing his license to practice medicine.

Dr de Brun resigned his seat on the IMC. The President of the IMC at that time was Bray based GP, Dr Rita Doyle. Elected in 2018, she became the first female President of the IMC, and the first full-time GP elected as President. She had more than 30 years experience as a GP and was a past President of the Irish College of General Practitioners.

The CitizenGO petition

calls on the Irish Medical Council to conduct a fully open and transparent Fitness to Practise hearing to allow for robust questioning of the implementation of covid measures implemented in early 2020.

The petition to the Irish Medical Council states: "Dr de Brun resigned from your Council in April 2020, protesting dangerous Covid policies harming vulnerable nursing home residents. Your policy transferred untested hospital patients to nursing homes, unwittingly spread-

ing Covid with no treatment protocols for residents in place, other than End of Life care.

"Now, after bravely exposing these devastating errors, Dr de Brun faces investigation and risks losing his medical licence. We demand transparency, integrity, and fairness from your Committee; protect courageous doctors speaking the truth for patient safety."

Louise Roseingrave, Campaigns Director Ireland for CitizenGO said: "This petition of more than 5,000 signatures represents a large groundswell of people willing to put their names behind the doctors under investigation. Many have questions

about the origin of covid policies and how these policies were implemented without proper scrutiny or evaluation.

"It is not good enough to say 'nobody knew better.' Those appointed to positions such as Chief Medical Officer and Minister for Health have a responsibility to the Irish people. Dr Tony Holohan and Tanaiste Simon Harris respectively, held those positions at that time. They have questions to answer about covid measures, particularly in relation to the issue that prompted Dr Marcus de Brun's resignation - the transfer of untested patients from hospitals to nursing homes."



The medical assembly last week.

CLIFF WALK OR CRAWL?

Continued from page 1

"We welcome the comments by the Chief Executive of the Council, Emer O'Gorman, that it is of 'great concern' that Jim Power's business-impact report on the closure, commissioned by us, has resulted in an economic contraction in Greystones, and that the CEO notes it is 'even more concerning' that individual businesses have been affected.

"Such observations are indicative of the great gulf that exists between the community and the Council. How can the Council and its Chief Executive have been unaware of these concerns when the negative economic impact of the closure has been glaringly obvious, and articulated, for years?

"Concern at the adverse impact of the closure, and at the Council's abject failure in dealing with the situation, together with a perceived lack of interest on its part in reopening the Walk, has been manifest . . . as the community has watched the Council do nothing for years, and years, and years, and we are now approaching a fifth year of closure.

"Prompt intervention by the Council when this situation arose (and not for the first time), discharging its public duty with dispatch, would have helped prevent the situation reaching the sorry

pass that it has.

"The Council statement references that it has 'initiated the procurement process of independent consultants' to assess safety issues and advise on short and long-term solutions.

"We will not be holding our breath."

Bray based independent councillor, Joe Behan, also reacted to recent announcements on the Cliff Walk saying "The recent report on the economic and social costs of the prolonged closure of the Cliff Walk should concentrate minds at the highest levels of central and local government.

Many people have missed the mental and physical benefits of being able to walk along the most stunning public right of way in Ireland and they are deeply disappointed that the safety problems arising from erosion and rockfalls are taking so long to address.

"I salute the volunteers from the Friends of the Cliff Walk who are doing so much to highlight these delays and I applaud their initiative in commissioning a report by one of Ireland's leading economists, Jim Power, which puts a figure on the financial losses being suffered by local businesses plus the loss to the taxpayer because of the prolonged closure.

"While the Council is due to begin working with newly

appointed consultants next week on assessing the actual safety risks and how to mitigate them, it is deeply disappointing that the Cliff Walk Task Force announced by the Tánaiste, just in time for the last General Election has met only once and we have never received any further updates since then.

"I believe that it is only with the active engagement of Government that the works needed to re-open the Cliff Walk will be undertaken but I fear that the Task Force was merely an election stunt to get past the election and then to be forgotten about. I am calling on the Tánaiste to get the Task Force working and this time give us better feedback on what is happening. While he is it, he should immediately add the Cathaoirleach of Bray and Greystones Municipal Districts to its membership because at least then we would have local democratic input into this. vital work.

"The words 'Task Force' sound great. They give the impression of immediate and resolute action. However, action has been in short supply so far. The Tánaiste needs to apply a little more force to the task. Otherwise, it is going to turn out like so many of the promises made by Government parties before the last election - empty rhetoric."

Agreement for expansion of Éire Óg GAA Club

Tánaiste Simon Harris has welcomed an announcement from the Greystones-based Eire Og GAA club that an agreement has been reached for the club to purchase 29 acres of land at Bellevue, Delgany.

The site acquired will be able to accommodate four new playing pitches. The club will continue to be based out of the main pitches at Mill Road, Greystones

The Tánaiste said: "I am delighted to hear that Eire Og has reached an agreement to purchase a new 29-acre site at Bellevue, Delgany. I have worked closely alongside the committee of Eire Og for several years on this, and it is great to see progress finally being made. The club's membership has reached an incredible 1,500 in recent years, thanks in no small part to the greatly increased female participation in the fantastic Camogie and LGFA set ups that the club provides.

"Had this break-

through not happened, the club would have found it difficult to meet the growing demand for membership. I want to thank all those who have contributed to this fantastic achievement, including club Chairperson Larry Howard, former Chair

Brendan Cuddihy and all the hardworking volunteers and coaches at every level.

"I look forward to seeing the positive impact that this development has on Eire Og, as well as the wider community in Greystones and Delgany."



Tánaiste Simon Harris.



Wicklow Town Team secures significant grant to complete major sustainable energy upgrade at De La Salle Pastoral Centre

The Wicklow Town Team has announced it has been awarded a substantial grant of €121,242 under the State's Community Recognition Fund. This vital funding is designated for the upgrade of windows at the De La Salle Pastoral Centre, marking the completion of an extensive sustainable energy retrofit project at the heart of the Wicklow community.

The initiative was spearheaded by the Town Team's dedicated Environment & Sustainable Energy working group. This latest grant builds upon previous successful phases of the project, which included comprehensive insulation of the building fabric and the installation of a significant solar PV and battery array. Upon full completion, the Pastoral Centre is projected to reduce its overall energy usage by over 50%.

The De La Salle Pastoral Centre has become an indispensable hub for numerous local voluntary community groups and activities, fostering a vibrant and active community spirit.

Deaglan O'Meachair, Chair of the Environment & Sustainable Energy Working Group, said: "Thanks to the volunteer members of the Wicklow Town Team for leading this initiative with support from Wicklow County Council and the Community Recognition Fund. It serves as a

prime example of how community members can implement similar sustainable improvements in their own homes and businesses."

The Wicklow Town Team strongly encourages the community to join the Energy Awareness Day which will take place at the De La Salle Pastoral Centre on Saturday, June 14th, from 11am to 4pm. This event offers a fantastic opportunity to learn more about sustainable energy solutions and their local impact.

The Wicklow Town Team operates as a coordinating body of local volunteers, representing active stakeholders, community groups, the voluntary sector, and business organisations. Working in close collaboration with the local Municipal Council, their shared mission is to enhance Wicklow Town as a place to Live, Work, Shop, and Play. To date, the team has successfully secured over €1 million in funding for projects for the town.



De La Salle Pastoral Centre, Wicklow Town.

Politicians engage with evidence of data centre impacts on Ireland's fossil fuel dependence

Massive water use by data centres also highlighted amid public water restrictions

TDs from across all major political parties attended a briefing on May 15th in the Leinster House Audio-Visual Room, to hear the findings of expert research presented by Professor Hannah Daly on the implications of Data Centre expansion in Ireland. Published in December 2024, Professor Daly's groundbreaking research, commissioned by Friends of the Earth, points to the injustice of the State's data centre policy whereby data centres are diverting renewable energy to serve the industry's growth, instead of reducing use of fossil fuels nationally.

to a clean and sustainable energy system."

Rosi Leonard, Data Centre Campaigner with Friends of the Earth added: "It is clear from this research that the sustainable and simultaneously unlimited growth of Data Centres is a myth. The Government's hands-off approach to the industry has stretched our energy systems to near breaking point, and we are also now seeing strains on our water infrastructure in areas of large Data Centre development like Meath and West Dublin. As the Commission for Regulation of Utilities has shown, without limitations on the industry we will increasingly see a situation where housing targets and public ser-

Furthermore, this research shows how the emerging phenomenon of data centres plugging directly into the gas network puts Ireland at risk of vastly overshooting our carbon budgets.

Professor Hannah Daly commented: "Energy demand from data centres is growing at breakneck speed, and renewables and the power grid can't keep up. As a result, we are running just to stand still, and are forced to turn to fossil fuels to be able to keep the lights on, instead of transitioning

vices will be competing with Data Centres for basic resources.

"This research should serve as a wake up call to Government: it is now essential to impose a moratorium on both new data centres and on the expansion of existing ones until a robust legislative and regulatory framework with limits on data centre connections and data centre emissions is in place. Friends of the Earth calls on the Government to ensure that renewables are developed for public good rather than captured by private data centre developments. Now is the time for decision makers to reconsider their stance, and ensure that climate action is prioritised in every sector, including technology."

Sean McLoughlin, Climate Policy Campaigner with Friends of the Earth said: "Despite commitments made by Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael and Regional Independents in

the new Programme for Government to 'guide the development of data centre infrastructure in alignment with our decarbonisation objectives', Professor Daly's research highlights how the industry has been allowed to do the opposite: increasing its use of fossil fuels and creating a blindspot in our climate action planning through direct connection to the gas network.

"The immediate and present danger of overshooting our legally-binding climate obligations makes these findings all the more timely. Since its publication, the new Government has failed to respond to this evidence, with Data Centres consuming 21% of our national electricity supply. Given the energy regulator is currently passing the buck with a proposal which fails to mandate emission reductions by data centres, Ireland continues to stride headlong into fossil fuel dependency."

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'No progress on Marine Protection Areas legislation since early 2023'

The Taoiseach cannot continue to talk out of both sides of his mouth when it comes to protecting Ireland's marine environment, according to Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore.

Deputy Whitmore, who is the party's spokesperson on the marine, said: "Speaking in France this week at the United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3), the Taoiseach said he wants Ireland to be a leading nation in global maritime policy. This lofty ambition is at odds with the track record of FF/FG-led governments, with no legislative progress on the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Bill since early 2023.

"The time for action is well overdue. We have been waiting years for this legislation and there is a real fear that the government will not introduce it. The programme for government only refers to expanding MPAs - there is no explicit commitment to the global pledge to protect 30 per cent of the planet's land and oceans by 2030. As things stand, 20 per cent of Ireland's marine area still needs designation so we can meet our targets.

"The EU Ocean Pact provides a clear framework for the protection of our marine environment. We now need to see the introduction of strong legislation, with long-term targets similar to Nature Restoration Law. It's all well and good for the Taoiseach to be reiterating his commitment to marine protection when he's on the world stage. But we need to see real action from his government, not just spin, between now and 2030."



Jennifer Whitmore TD.



Céimeanna Baitsiléara Tríú Céime Nua ar fáil i gCill Mhantáin don bhliain acadúil 2025/2026

Tá na Céimeanna Baitsiléara Tríú Céime seo a leanas ar fáil i gCill Mhantáin den chéad uair i mí Mheán Fómhair: Níl iontráil bunaithe ar phointí, agus níl aon táillí teagaisc ann don chéad bhliain nó dhó.

• Baitsiléir Ealaíon (Onóracha) i Léiriú Meán Tumtha

Ag tosú in Institiúid Breisoideachais Bhré, le haistriú gan uaim go dtí IADT (Campas Dhún Laoghaire).

• Baitsiléir Gnó (Onóracha) i nGnó agus Síceolaíocht

Ag tosú in Institiúid Breisoideachais Bhré le haistriú gan uaim go dtí IADT (Campas Dhún Laoghaire).

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KC Cleachtas na Mínealaíona
KE Ceardaíocht Chruthaitheach

DEARADH

- DA** Dearadh Grafach
DD Dearadh & Teicneolaíocht Ailtireachta
DN Déanamh Seodra & Ceardaíocht Adhmaid
DI Dearadh Troscáin & Saoirseacht/Saoirseacht
DC Faisean & Teicstílí
DJ Dearadh Troscáin & Déanamh Comh-Aireachta (Ardleibhéal)

CEOL

- MI** Teicnící DJ & Léiriú Ceoil
MJ Léiriú Ceoil
MK Taibhiú Ceoil
MF Innealtóireacht Fuaime

RIOMHAIREACHT

- NA** Forbairt Bogearraí Ríomhaireachta le hintleacht shaorga
NB Eolaíocht Ríomhaireachta
NC Líonraí Ríomhaireachta agus Cibearshlándáil
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STAIÉAR SÓISIALTA & CÚRAM LEANAÍ

- OA** SNA (Bunscoil & Iar-bhunscoil)
OB SNA & Staidéir Míchumais (Leibhéal 6)
HD Foghlaim Luath & Cúram / Cúram Leanaí
HE Staidéir Shóisialta & Cúram Pobail

GRUAIGE, ÁILLEACHT & FOLLÁINE

- FJ** Smideadh & Gruaig Ghairmiúil
FF Gruagaireacht - Stíleoir Sóisearach
FG Gruagaireacht - Stíleoir Sinsearach
FH Bearbaireacht
FD Teicneoir Ingne & Riarachán Salon

EOLAÍOCHT & INNEALTÓIREACHT

- HS** Eolaíocht Fhóiréinseach - Réamh-Ollscoil
HK Eolaíocht - Réamh-Ollscoil
HZ Eolaíocht Bia le Diaitéitic - Réamh-Ollscoil
JF Cúntóir Miondíola Cógaisíochta
JJ Teicneoir Cógaisíochta
HU Staidéir Éiceolaíochta Feidhmí agus Bithéagsúlachta
DK Gairneoireacht & Dearadh Gairdíní
HV Innealtóireacht Réamh-Ollscoil

GNÓ

- JA** Bainistíocht & Riarachán Gnó
JC Bainistíocht Gnó - Teastas Ardleibhéil
JD Teicneoir Cuntasaíochta
LD Teastas Ardleibhéil Turasóireachta Gnó
SD Díl Riarachán Díl Réamh-Ollscoile
SF Riarachán Leighis (Maidineacha Amháin)
SE Riarachán TF & Oifige (Maidineacha Amháin)
JT Margaíocht Dhigiteach agus Fiontraíocht
EE Slándáil & Réamh-Gharda
JP B.Bus (Onóracha) Gnó & Síceolaíocht

FÁILTEACHT & TURASÓIREACHT

- LA** Turasóireacht, Bainistíocht Fáiltithe & Imeachtaí
LH Bainistíocht Bialainne & Beair
LC Ealaíona Cócaireachta
LE Ealaíona Cócaireachta Ardleibhéil
LG Taosrán, BÁCÁIL & Barista
LI Bainistíocht Fáilteachais & Gnó (Leibhéal 6)

TEASTAS ARDLEIBHÉILE DO DHAOINE FÁSTA

- RB** Teastas Ardleibhéil do Dhaoine Fásta

SLÁINTE

- HB** Staidéir Altranais agus Cnáimhseachais - Réamh-Ollscoil
HH Cúntóir Cúraim Sláinte
HP Cúntóir Teiripe Ceirde
JK Staidéir Cúraim Éigeandála
(Réamh-pharaimhíochaine, Dóiteán & Otharcharr)
HL Síceolaíocht sa Phobal (Ardleibhéil)

SCANNÁN & CLUICHÍ RIOMHAIREACHT

- MA** Léiriúchán Teilifíse & Scannán
MB Léiriúchán Teilifíse & Scannán - Ardleibhéil
ME Dearadh Chluichí Ríomhaire 3D
MC BA (Onóracha) Céim Léiriúcháin Meán Tumtha
MG Forbairt Cluichí Ríomhaire

ACTÓIREACHT & DAMHSA

- PB** Aisteoireacht don Ardán & don Scáileán Ardleibhéil
PE Teicníc Damhsa, Taibhiú agus Cóiréagrafaíocht Corpoideachais - Ardleibhéil

BÉARLA DO IDIRNÁISIÚNTA MIC LÉINN

- XA** Béarla agus Staidéir Ghinearálta

PRINTÍSEACHTAÍ

- JG** Printíseacht Teicneora Cuntasaíochta



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EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

Increasing interest in Wicklow Town Heritage Trail

The weekly guided walk of the new Wicklow Town Heritage Trail, which takes place every Saturday morning at 11am, commencing from outside the Failte Ireland Office, continues to attract a significant number of visitors each week. The guided trails continue each Saturday until the 27th September.

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

There has also been a significant uptake in interest from newcomers to the area who have been fascinated by the history and heritage of their new local town with each week attracting an increased number of overseas Tourists.

- The complete tour covers:
- The story of local man Robert Halpin who laid the first Trans-Atlantic cable.
 - The history of the Abbey Grounds and the Franciscan Abbey.
 - The story of Billy Byrne and the 1798 rising in Wicklow Town
 - The massacre of over 300 mainly women and children in Melancholy Lane by Sir Charles Coote in 1641.

- The story of the Black Castle including details of some of the battles that took place over 6 centuries.
- The attempted landing by St. Patrick at Travilahawk Beach.
- The history relating to the Barrow Green, including stories of the secret burials that took place there.

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

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



Participants on the Wicklow Town heritage trail.

Corrigan calls for a review of parking bylaws

Cllr Melanie Corrigan is highlighting an important issue regarding parking and traffic management in Enniskerry and other small towns in County Wicklow.



Cllr Melanie Corrigan in Enniskerry.

“By implementing a system where parking is paid after the first free hour, it would help ensure that parking spaces are available for shoppers, encouraging those who park for the entire day to find alternative parking options,” Cllr Corrigan says. “This would help manage the limited parking spaces in the small villages of County Wicklow more effectively. Implementing designated parking spaces and introducing paid parking would improve accessibility for visitors and support local businesses. It might also encourage better use of public transportation or alternative modes of transportation. Revisiting the bylaws could be a positive step toward addressing these challenges and enhancing the quality of life for both residents and visitors.”

Cllr Corrigan has called on Wicklow County Council to do this.

Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant shortlisted for RIAI Public Choice Award

Uisce Eireann has announced that the Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant has been shortlisted for the prestigious 2025 Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland (RIAI) Public Choice Award. This recognition celebrates the plant's innovative design and its transformative impact on the Arklow community.

Designed by Clancy Moore Architects in collaboration with Ayesa Engineers, the €139 million facility marks a significant milestone as Ireland's first wastewater treatment plant to integrate architectural design from inception.

Michael Tinsley, Senior Portfolio Manager with Uisce Eireann, said “Previously, Arklow faced environmental challenges due to the absence of wastewater infrastructure, leading to untreated sewage entering the Avoca River. The completion of this project has not only addressed these issues but has also reshaped the town's visual identity, blending architecture with the natural beauty of the Avoca River and its surroundings.”

The plant's distinctive mint-

green structures have garnered attention for their aesthetic appeal and functionality. Features such as bat-friendly louvres and an on-site solar farm underscore the project's commitment to sustainability.

The Architectural Association of Ireland recently awarded the plant its highest honour, the Downes Medal, for 'outstanding architectural merit'.

The RIAI Public Choice Award is unique in that it is determined by public vote, offering communities an opportunity to celebrate architectural excellence that enhances daily life. The Arklow plant secured one of 48 coveted spots on the shortlist. Uisce Eireann encourages all residents of Wicklow and beyond to support the



Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant by casting their vote.

To support Arklow's nomination, please visit the RIAI Public Choice Award poll at www.riai.ie/public-choice-award-poll. Voting is open until 5pm on Monday 16th June.

Completion of Kilcoole Road footpath a step forward

Cllr Stephen Stokes has welcomed the completion of the new and improved footpath on the Kilcoole Road, just north of Kilcoole village. Coupled with the recent road resurfacing on the same road, these measures mark a significant investment into local infrastructure and pedestrian safety, he said.



Cllr Stokes on the new Kilcoole Road footpath.

Cllr Stokes stated: "I am delighted to see this work come to fruition. I had been advocating for this footpath for some time. First and foremost is the importance of pedestrian safety. Secondly it now makes a much better first impression on visitors to Kilcoole."

The upgraded pathway, which stretches from the Kilcoole Community Centre to Knockroe, enhances accessibility for residents, schoolchildren, and visitors to the village. The works included the renewal and widening of the footpath. Cllr Stokes added: “This project has been a top priority for many residents, and I am delighted to see it delivered. A safe, modern footpath may seem simple, but it makes a big difference in daily life, particularly for families with buggies, older people, and those with mobility challenges.”

The footpath works were carried out by Wicklow County Council shortly after major road resurfacing on the Kilcoole Road. Residents are encouraged to share feedback on the new pathway and suggest other areas where improvements are needed. One area for improvement that is planned is the resurfacing of Kilcoole Main Street.

Cllr Stokes concluded: “The completion of this footpath is a positive step forward for Kilcoole. I will continue to support further enhancements to pedestrian and road infrastructure across Charlesland, Delgany, Greystones, Kilcoole, Killadreenan and Newcastle.”



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:
Beech Road, Bray (L-15802-0).

Period of closure:
Monday 30 June, 2025 to Monday 14 July, 2025.

Alternative Routes:
The temporary diversion route will be via temporary road link between Beech Road and Thornhill View to accommodate essential road works.

Reason for Closure:
This closure is necessary to facilitate the reconstruction of a failed section of the roadway.

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

END OF CIVIL WAR POLITICS?

Under the nose of Fine Gael leader & Tánaiste Simon Harris, Fine Gael/Sinn Féin reciprocate support on local council

Following the Bray Municipal District Council AGM where the five Fine Gael, Sinn Féin, Green Party and Social Democrat councillors voted against the three Independent councillors' nominee for Cathaoirleach and Leas-Chathaoirleach, Independent Councillor Malachai Duddy has accused the political parties of having a de facto electoral pact to exclude the Independent councillors.

Cllr. Duddy was defeated for the position of Cathaoirleach, having been proposed by Cllr. Joe Behan (Independent), by the election of Cllr. Erika Doyle (Green Party) for her second term in the Chair having been nominated by Cllr. Dermot O'Brien (Sinn Féin) and seconded by Cllr. Melanie Corrigan (Fine Gael). Cllr. Melanie Corrigan was elected Leas-Chathaoirleach. The successful candidates were elected with the combined support of the five Fine Gael, Sinn Féin, Green Party, and Social Democrat councillors. Likewise in 2024, Cllr. Dermot O'Brien (Sinn Féin) was elected Cathaoirleach, with Cllr. Erika Doyle (Green Party) elected Leas-Chathaoirleach, with the support of the five Fine Gael, Sinn Féin, Green Party, and Social Democrat councillors.

Cllr. Joe Behan in



Bray Independent councillors Malachai Duddy, Joe Behan and Ian Neary.

proposing Cllr. Duddy repeated his plea from last year's AGM that candidates who have not yet served as Cathaoirleach or Leas-Chathaoirleach be given an opportunity as a matter of fairness. He described Cllr. Duddy as having contributed very constructively to the work of the council since his election as a new councillor last year and is someone who has for many

years taken an active part in community in Bray. Cllr. Behan said Cllr. Duddy comes from a family with a proud tradition of public and commercial service in Bray, including the cultural, educational and environmental life of the town. As an Independent, Cllr. Duddy says he seeks to work constructively with all councillors, as demonstrated in his record over the past year, and he

believes co-operation and openness on Bray Municipal District council is the most effective way to serve the people of the town. He congratulates Cllr. Erika Doyle and Cllr. Melanie Corrigan and looks forward to continuing to work with them in a meaningful way.

Furthermore, Cllr. Malachai Duddy said he "congratulates Fine Gael and Sinn Féin on bringing

an end to Irish Civil War politics in Bray." He continued that 2025 was "the second year where this pact was demonstrated between Fine Gael and Sinn Féin as well as the other political parties which last year saw Sinn Féin's Cllr. Dermot O'Brien elected to the Chair and is again evident this year in the vote for Fine Gael's Cllr. Melanie Corrigan as Leas-Chathaoirleach. Such a move in Bray, close to the Fine Gael leader's heart, where he also has his constituency office, is presumably done with the knowledge of the Tánaiste. This must surely demonstrate that Simon Harris as Fine Gael leader is prepared to entertain a coalition with Sinn Féin following the next General Election. If it can happen at local level in Bray then surely there is no barrier to a Fine Gael/Sinn Féin pact nationally."



Green Party councillor Erika Doyle, new Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District for 2025-26.

Doyle elected Bray Cathaoirleach

Green Party councillor Erika Doyle was elected as the new Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District at last week's Bray MD meeting. Cllr Doyle takes over the role from Sinn Féin councillor Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien.

Speaking after last week's meeting, Cllr Doyle said "It is an honour to be elected as Cathaoirleach for the coming year. The role is, or should be at least, less about the individual and more about the office itself. As first citizen of Bray, Kilmacanogue and Enniskerry it is a leadership role that has visible ceremonial aspects but also very important behind the scenes work around local projects and policy.

"It is important to listen more than speak, and I hope to engage with the people of the Bray district as much as I can in the coming year. When I canvassed for the local elections the message to me was clear. People want their councillors working together for them at local level. Party politics, in as much as it's practicable, should be left aside at a local level. Divisive politics are not what people want from their local representatives. There is far too much of that going on in the world right now."

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FREE PARKING

Baltinglass groups and individuals honoured with Cathaoirleach's Awards

Fourteen individuals and groups were honoured for their outstanding achievements at a ceremony hosted by the Cathaoirleach of Baltinglass Municipal District, Cllr Patsy Glennon. The event took place at Tulfarris Golf and Country Club on 6th June.



West Wicklow For Dogs.

Award Winners

- Brendan Lawrence
- Dermot & Liz Harmon
- John Timmins
- Michael Kehoe
- Tom Lennon
- Ken Browne
- Father James Prendiville
- Terri Kenny
- Carmel Cashin
- Pauline Byrne
- John Coogan
- Coolboy Handball Club
- West Wicklow Friends for Dogs
- Mr. Frank Conroy

Cathaoirleach of Baltinglass Municipal District, Cllr. Patsy Glennon, expressed his delight in presenting the awards to such special recipients, adding that it was a truly memorable event. The awardees came from various parts of the district, each bringing their own unique story, yet united by a common theme of selfless service to their communities.

He stated, "None of the recipients seek recognition; however, their deeds are very much worthy of recognition. From community work to local heroes, each and every one of them should be proud of what they have accomplished. They fully deserve their awards."

"I was delighted to welcome them to the event this evening along with their family and friends," he continued. "It makes the occasion even more special to celebrate with

those closest to you. I would like to acknowledge the support that family and friends have pro-



Terri Kenny and Cathaoirleach of Baltinglass Municipal District Cllr. Patsy Glennon.

vided to the recipients throughout their endeavours. To them, I say there is no greater power and support you can give someone than to look them in the eye and sincerely say, 'I believe in you!'"

Baltinglass District Manager, Theresa O'Brien, congratulated the award winners on receiving their awards, she said the

achievements of all the recipients here this evening give an insight into their dedication, effort, skill and courage. She said that Baltinglass Municipal District Officials and Elected Members are delighted to pay tribute to the award winners and to recognise their amazing achievements and contributions

to community life. Wicklow County Council Chief Executive Emer O'Gorman extended her congratulations to all the award winners. She commended them for their continued contribution to their communities. She said that their efforts are very much appreciated by all in Wicklow County Council.



Ken Browne and group of attendees.



Fr. James Prendiville and a group of attendees.



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

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

Road to be closed:
Wolfe Tone Square Middle, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

Period of closure:
Monday 14th July 2025 to Friday 25th July 2025.

Alternative Routes:
The temporary diversion route will be via Wolfe Tone Square North and Wolfe Tone Square West.

Reason for Closure:
This closure is necessary to facilitate the reconstruction of a failed section of the roadway.

Any person wishing to object to the proposed road closure must lodge their objection in writing to Transportation and Infrastructure Delivery, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow or via email at roadtran@wicklowcoco.ie not later than 12.00 noon on Tuesday 17th June, 2025.

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

Cois Droichid social homes allocated

Stokes welcomes 'major step forward' for local families

Cllr Stephen Stokes has welcomed the allocation of new social homes in Cois Droichid, Greystones. This is a significant development that will provide much needed housing for families and individuals in the area.

Located in the heart of Greystones, the Cois Droichid development reflects the Council's broader strategy to integrate social housing within vibrant, growing communities.

Cllr Stokes stated: "This is a very welcome development for Greystones. The allocation of these homes will make a real difference to local families who have been waiting for secure and affordable housing. Cois Droichid represents more than just bricks and mortar – it offers hope, stability, and the opportunity for people to build their lives within a thriving community."

The Cois Droichid development consists of 41 homes. The estate is owned by Wicklow County Council, and forms part of the Council's ongoing commitment to

tackling housing need and delivering sustainable, high-quality accommodation in County Wicklow.

Cllr Stokes also acknowledged the ongoing efforts of Wicklow County Council housing staff and community partners. Cllr Stokes remarked: "I want to thank everyone involved in delivering these homes. From the planners and builders to the council staff who have worked so hard to get us to this point. I would particularly like to thank Joe Lane, Director of Services for his determination and leadership, despite the many challenges along the way. This is a reminder of what can be achieved when we prioritise people's needs and invest in public housing."

The Cois Droichid homes will be allocated in accordance with

Wicklow County Council's housing allocation policy, ensuring that those most in need benefit from this new development. Cllr Stokes is calling on the Government to provide decisive resources to local Councils to build more social and affordable homes.

Cllr Stokes added: "The Government likes to declare that Councils should build more houses. This is fine, but we need the resources to actually do the work. Ireland needs an army of new tradespeople. You can't expect an invisible person to magically appear. Until we re-double our efforts to get more young people into trades, we are probably going to struggle. At the same time we need to ensure that infrastructure and amenities are in place for local residents."



Cllr Stephen Stokes at the Cois Droichid housing development.

106 social homes in jeopardy as housing plan collapses in Blessington

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has expressed serious concerns that the delivery of 106 desperately needed homes at Burgage More in Blessington now faces uncertainty following the decision to pull the plug on the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) project that was set to deliver the homes.

These homes were part of PPP Bundle 3, which aimed to deliver 486 social housing units across multiple counties, including Wicklow, Dublin, Kildare, and Sligo.

Deputy Brady said "After five long years of planning, investment, and hard work the entire project of 106 homes at Burgage More in Blessington has now been thrown into uncertainty. This is not just an administrative setback; it is a devastating blow to fami-

lies who have been clinging to hope while languishing on social housing waiting lists. Full planning permission was granted by Wicklow County Council in 2022, and for the last 3 years there has been no progress with these homes. Now after five years of planning, the government has pulled the plug on the Blessington homes.

"I have long warned that the PPP model is not the solution to our housing crisis. It is overly complicated, involves up

to five different partners in a single housing scheme, and does not represent value for money for the taxpayer. The irony now is that the government, having insisted on PPPs for years, has suddenly reversed course – acknowledging the flaws in the very system they defended and promoted. But that admission means little if it's not followed by urgent and effective action.

"The bottom line is this: identifying problems in the system isn't

enough. What matters now is delivery. The Minister must act immediately to provide direct funding to Wicklow County Council and the other local authorities affected by this collapse. These homes need to be delivered directly and without further delays. The planning is done, the sites are ready, and the need is critical. What's missing is leadership, political will, and decisive investment.

"This fiasco is just the latest in a string of failures that lay bare the Government's complete mishandling of the housing crisis. Time and again, they have missed their own housing targets.

Just this year, they fell short of the 2024 national target by an astonishing 10,000 homes – and last year, they missed their social housing target by

18%, equivalent to 2,345 homes. These aren't just numbers. Each missed target means more families stuck in emergency accommodation, more children growing up without a secure home, and more people pushed to the edge.

"This kind of uncertainty and backpedaling is not the mark of a func-

tioning housing strategy. It is the mark of a government scrambling for ideas and completely out of touch with the reality on the ground. They're making it up as they go along while the housing crisis worsens around them.

The people of Wicklow, and across the country, deserve better. They deserve a govern-

ment that can deliver homes, not excuses. The cancellation of this PPP bundle cannot be allowed to result in further delays or abandonment. The solution is clear: fund local authorities directly and empower them to build the homes we need quickly, affordably, and with public accountability."

Timmins encourages Dáil to follow 'Wicklow model' on vacant Housing

During a Dáil Vacant Council Housing Motion, Fine Gael TD for Wicklow Edward Timmins shared a framework he introduced while a Wicklow County Councillor stating it should be rolled out nationally. He also took the opportunity to correct the public record regarding inaccurate figures contained in recent Opposition statements.

Reciting a proposal he brought forward on Wicklow County Council, Deputy Timmins commented: "As housing challenges became more acute, I brought forward a proposal that every month the Councillors receive a summary of the total number of houses vacant broken down by District. This could then be discussed every month at our full Council meeting. I also asked that this list be aged by how long the houses were vacant. This proposal was successfully adopted by Wicklow County Council.

"My logic for introducing it was: if you want to manage

something, you must firstly measure it. I see some false information being put out in the public domain by politicians in particular statements that the funds given for refurbishment are of the order of €800 per house. This is actually the maintenance cost. The average cost spent across the country is actually €28,000 as per the most recent NOAC report and there is a national spend of over €100 million. Government provide €11,000 per house and not €800.

"The waiting times can clearly be improved. For example, some counties take an average of 60

weeks for a refurbishment whereas one takes as little as an average of 13 weeks. But there are a variety of reasons for this including delays with contractors, the time taken for full retrofits and tenant refusals of properties.

"And of course the lead time for reletting a vacant property should be quicker. But do remember that all relets are brought up to a high standard and many of the houses have not been refurbished in decades. We need to monitor vacancy rates on a monthly basis at Council level and use the reports that are in use in Wicklow."



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Staff at Enable Ireland work as part of a dedicated and innovative team, providing a warm and welcoming environment for children and adults with disabilities.

We are excited to offer the opportunity to apply for a post with our newest Adult Day Service, located in Arklow, Co. Wicklow.

We are currently recruiting for a full time **Clinical Nurse Specialist** to join our team. This role will be

based in Arklow with two days per week outreach work in Dublin. This is a fixed-term post for 2 years.

This specialist role will encompass a major clinical focus, which comprises of assessment, planning, delivery and evaluation of care given to Service Owners and their families.

The post holder will provide direct nursing care and support to Adult Day Services in the region in the areas of complex care and behaviours of concern. They will also provide clinical supervision to nursing staff across the region and at satellite sites as assigned, supporting up to date clinical practice, and develop and deliver bespoke and clinical training programmes as identified with service managers, assuring the competence of healthcare professionals and support staff.

If you are interested in applying for this role, and to learn more about our teams and staff benefits, please visit our Careers page at:

<https://enableireland.ie/about-us/careers>

Enniskerry woman awarded by Concern for volunteer work

Enniskerry local Linda Golden was one of 24 people awarded for their volunteer efforts for the humanitarian organisation Concern Worldwide.

Linda, who used to teach English at St Killian's German School, received a medal at the Concern Volunteer Awards in Dublin for her work as a volunteer adjudicator for the Concern Debates competition – which is the country's largest school debating contest where students debate global issues.

Linda, who has been a volunteer with the Concern Debates for almost thirty years, said she was 'privileged and honoured' to receive the award.

"I'm delighted to get this award from Concern, an organisation I admire and support for their work," she said.

"I am always happy to help out in any way I can to advance their work and support their dedicated employees."

Linda said it is wonderful to see the young students get the opportunity to speak out on issues of interest and importance to them. She believes the debates have a profound impact on all who get involved and she would encourage anyone who has an interest to support the competition.

"We are grateful to all our volunteers and supporters who help us reach millions of people living in extreme poverty and hunger every year," said Concern's Community Fundraising Manager Joanne Arnold.

"Concern's work continues despite many challenges. The families we support in places like Sudan and Gaza cannot be reached without the support we get from our

volunteers. They include the adjudicators who help us run Concern Debates which has been hugely successful in getting students thinking and talking about the many issues the world faces."

Concern's Volunteer Awards began in 2013 to celebrate the vital contribution made by the organisation's volunteers in Ireland.

Many raise funds that enable Concern to continue to alleviate poverty and hunger, which last year alone saw 27.3 million people reached in 27 countries.

Concern was formed in 1968 in response to the Biafran famine in Nigeria. More information about Concern's work and how to support the organisation can be found at concern.net.



Rosalyn Tamming with volunteer Linda Golden and CEO Dominic Crowley.

There's still time to support your local hospice



The 35th annual Hospice Sunflower Days on-street collections have taken place in cities, towns and villages throughout the country last weekend, the 6th and 7th June, with volunteers selling an array of sunflower merchandise to help raise much needed funds for hospices and homecare services throughout Ireland.

Together for Hospice, The National Hospice Movement, is reminding the public that if you missed the volunteers, you can still support your local hospice or homecare service by donating online at www.sunflowerdays.ie until the end of June.

Hospices and homecare services rely heavily on fundraisers and donations from campaigns such as Hospice Sunflower Days to allow them to continue to provide their specialist care and support to patients living with life-limiting illnesses, and their families. Every euro raised locally, stays locally so by donating online before the end of June you can really make a difference and ensure that your local hospice or homecare services can continue to provide their vital services.

Sarah McCloskey, Governance Group Chair at Together for Hospice, The National Hospice Movement, commented, "We are delighted that so many people supported our on-street collections on the 6th and 7th June. However, if you missed our volunteers there is still time to support your local hospice or homecare service for the Hospice Sunflower Days campaign by donating online until the end of June. Your support really does make a difference!"

For more information and to donate to your local hospice or homecare service today log onto www.sunflowerdays.ie.

Wicklow hosting trike and bike run in aid of EB charity Debra

Over 100 bikers and trikers are due to descend on Wicklow for a special event raising funds for Debra, the national charity supporting those living with a rare skin disease.

The big-hearted two and three-wheel enthusiasts will wind their way through the county on June 29th in a drive to support the 300 people in Ireland living with epidermolysis bullosa (EB) – and are inviting friends to join them.

EB, an extremely painful genetic condition, is caused by an absence of proteins between the skin layers.

It means the slightest touch causes skin blistering, which in extreme cases must be banded every day, causing excruciating pain.

Bikers 4 St Catherine's Special School in Newtownmountkennedy and Irish Trikes have joined forces for the charity initiative, also being supported by military motorcycle club, Green Knights Ireland.

"On our runs, we go off for a spin before heading to a venue to show the bikes and trikes to children and adults and make an event of it," said joint organiser Sean Meyler, 61, of Irish Trikes.

"Personally, I have encountered a few children with EB and it always struck a chord with me. It just leapt out that maybe there was something we as a biking/triking community of Ireland could do.

"We are very heavily involved in supporting charities, we go for a spin and we turn up for people in need. We're not looking for medals, if we can do something to highlight a charity in need, we'll do it."

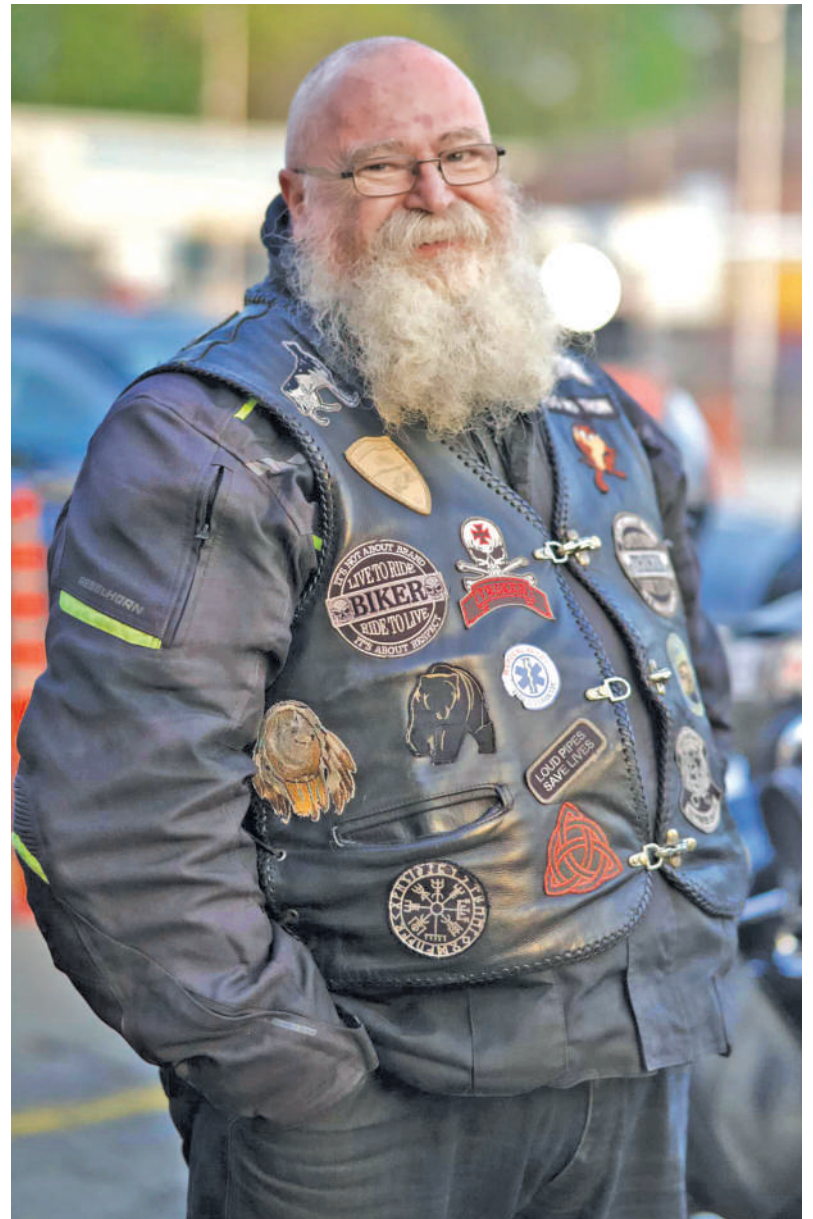
The run, a learner-friendly and family-friendly event, is off motorway and begins at Circle K in Dublin's Citywest at 10am on June 29th.

From there it will head south towards Blessington, Hollywood and Laragh, stopping at Lynhams before continuing on to Rathdrum, Glenealy and Rathnew and onwards towards Newcastle Community Centre.

At this point, participants are asked to dig deep for Debra and there will be prizes, raffles, food and even an Elvis impersonator.

"We're not political or religious," added Mr Meyler, from Dublin's Clondalkin. "We're about watching out for each other and the community and we support other's charity runs."

Anyone who wants to take part can simply turn up on the day or find further information on the Facebook pages of Bikers 4 St Catherine's Special School or Irish Trikes.



Sean Meyler of Irish Trikes.

Whitmore highlights importance of New Court Special School amid policy changes

Proposed reforms could impact enrolment criteria across special schools

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore, issued a strong warning to the Department of Education over its plans to redesignate special schools speaking in the Dail this week. She said that the move could displace children with Mild General Learning Disabilities (MGLD) and dismantle a vital educational lifeline in communities like Bray.

"New Court Special School in Bray is a school that has supported generations of children with MGLD. Students who are not served by any other part of the education system. It is a sanctuary, a place of stability, dignity, and opportunity," Deputy Whitmore stated.

"A recent circular from the Department of Education introduces new eligibility criteria for special school enrolment for September 2025, including a mandatory NCSE letter confirming diagnosis and placement recommendation. Under these new rules, children must have complex needs to

qualify. This effectively excludes those with mild disabilities," Deputy Whitmore explained. "All children with additional needs deserve a school place that is catered to their needs and allows them to thrive academically, socially, and personally. But this cannot be done at the expense of one another."

New Court Special School is a co-educational day school serving students aged 5-18 with MGLD. It offers a broad, individualised curriculum that includes academic, social, recreational, and vocational training. Many students progress beyond

Level 2 learning and achieve Level 4 qualifications, opening doors to further education and employment. This new policy puts New Court at risk of being redesignated to serve only children with complex needs, leaving children with MGLD to rely on the mainstream system.

"The Department claims these students can be 'catered for in mainstream', but in practice that means placing them in general education settings without the supports they need. This is not inclusion, it is displacement. It doesn't create new school places; it simply

reallocates existing ones. In a county like Wicklow, where every single year we have children without school places come September, the last thing we need is more pressure on existing schools. We need more schools, simple as," Deputy Whitmore continued.

"Why can we not have schools for children with Mild General Learning Disabilities and schools for children with complex needs? Why must it be one or the other? Ireland is a wealthy country, we should be providing both," Deputy Whitmore stated. "The Ministers in the Department of Edu-



Deputy Whitmore with staff at New Court Special School.

cation have stated their desire to have children schooled in their communities, which they have stated as one of the reasons for this redesigna-

tion. In reality though, the answer to that problem is to build more schools, not to move children between existing ones.

"I am calling on the

Minister to halt this redesignation process and to protect the future of New Court Special School. These students deserve to be understood, supported,

and given the chance to thrive, not pushed into unsuitable environments under the illusion of inclusion," Deputy Whitmore concluded.

Schools can apply for preferred 'phone storage solution'

The government has finally abandoned their plan to spend €9m on phone pouches for schools but are still refusing to give schools autonomy over how the money is spent, according to Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore.

"Today in the Dáil, the Tánaiste confirmed a dramatic U-turn. The government's plan to spend €9 million on phone pouches has been shelved. Instead, schools will now be able to apply for funding to implement their own preferred 'phone

storage solution'.

"Given phone pouches can be replaced by a teacher putting phones in a cardboard box, and that many schools already have these phone storage solutions in place, the Tánaiste must now clarify if this money is being ringfenced for

phone storage alone.

"If that is the case, it just means that a diluted version of the former minister's pet project with schools given the illusion of choice.

"The reality for schools is that many of them are so cash-strapped that they are

struggling to keep the lights on. A new survey today has revealed that a record number have had to apply to the Department for emergency funding.

"In that context, it is completely tone-deaf for the government to insist that €9m should go on phone storage. Everyone agrees that phones should not be used during the school day, but most schools have

already dealt with this as an issue.

"If this €9 million is to be retained, schools should be allowed to use it for the programmes, equipment, and supports they actually need.

"Special schools in particular struggle with funding, many of them having very small student bodies and therefore very limited fundraising capacity. For these schools, to have

money available to them to spend on vital resources like sensory areas, would be completely game changing.

"New Court Special School in Bray is an amazing school that has supported generations of students with Mild General Learning Dis-

abilities. They recently opened the Hive, their sensory garden. It is a fantastic achievement by the school and their community, but it is deeply concerning to me that they had to raise the money themselves and have now had to launch another fundraiser to

pay for swings.

"Special Schools, existing and new, deserve and need to have these vital sensory areas for their students'. This money would go a long way for schools like New Court Special School and the Government has a duty to support them."

New Court students celebrate completion of WorkAbility Skills Programme

The IMPACT WorkAbility Inclusive Pathways to Employment Programme was proud to recently present students from New Court School with certificates recognising their successful completion of a WorkAbility skills-based training programme.

The programme covered key employability modules, including Retail Operational Skills, Personal Awareness and Boundaries, Conflict Resolution, Interview Skills, and CV Writing. Designed to enhance job readiness, the training aims to support students in taking the next steps toward paid employment.

At the certificate presentation, IMPACT WorkAbility Programme Coordinator Orla Butler congratulated the students on their achievements. She also expressed her gratitude to New Court School's Principal and teachers for their engagement, and to trainers Finola Dolan and Paul

Aspell for their dedicated and supportive delivery of the programme.

"We were delighted to collaborate with New Court School on this prac-

tical, skills-focused initiative," said Orla. "The IMPACT WorkAbility Programme is all about supporting people with disabilities to secure meaningful employment and progress in their careers. We look forward to continuing our support for these students on their career journeys."

The IMPACT Work-

Ability Inclusive Pathways to Employment Programme is a free service that assists people with disabilities in the Bray and North Wicklow area to access employment, develop their careers, or start their own business. The programme also works closely with employers to create more inclusive and accessible

workplaces. Co-funded by the Government of Ireland through the Department of Social Protection and the European Union, IMPACT WorkAbility is committed to breaking down barriers and promoting equality in employment. For more information, visit www.bnwap.ie or call 01 963 3342.



New Court students with their certificates.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

PUBLIC CONSULTATION – PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF FORMER GARDA STATION ASHFORD AS A COMMUNITY CENTRE/SPORTS AND RECREATION HUB

It is proposed to develop the former Garda Station in Ashford as a Community Centre/Sports and Recreation Hub for the community.

A planning application has been submitted by Ashford Development Association CLG – Planning Register Reference No. 2560316.

The public, stakeholders and interested parties are invited to view the planning application online or at the planning counter of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow Town from Monday to Friday – 9.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.

This non-statutory consultation provides an opportunity for feedback and observations to be submitted regarding the proposed development, which may inform the further development of the project in the next phases.

Submissions will be accepted via Wicklow County Council's Online Consultation Hub. Submissions can be emailed to ccsadmin@wicklowcoco.ie (please reference "Former Garda Station Ashford" in the subject line or posted to Ms. Máire Halvey, T/Senior Executive Officer, Community Services, Social Development (Housing & Community), County Buildings, Whitegates, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow, A67 FW96 with "Former Garda Station Ashford" marked on the front of the envelope.

The deadline for receipt of submissions is 5.00 p.m. on Friday 20th June 2025.

A golden milestone for St.Catherine's

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore joined the St. Catherine's Special School community in late May to celebrate an extraordinary milestone of 50 years as an officially recognised special school. The event, held on the school's grounds on Kilmullen Lane, brought together past and present staff, students, and supporters for a joyful garden party under clear blue skies.

"It was such a pleasure to be part of this golden celebration for St. Catherine's Special School," said Deputy Whitmore. "The sunshine was shining down on us, as if in recognition of all the hard work and love that has built this community over the past five decades. There was such warmth in the air, in the smiles of students, the stories of long-time staff, and the pride of parents. It's a reflection of what this school has meant to so many people across Wicklow. It's not just a school, it's a symbol of determination, compassion, and the unwavering belief in every child's right to an education that supports and values them."

The day was filled with music, dance, and heartfelt reminiscence as attendees reflected on the school's journey from humble beginnings in 1972, operating from a borrowed room in Newcastle Hospital, to its present-day status as a vibrant and growing educational community with 89 students and a new purpose-built campus in Kilcoole on the horizon.

"I want to congratulate everyone who has been part of this incredible journey, from the visionaries who first gathered in the Royal Hotel in Arklow over sixty years ago, to the current staff and school leadership who are carrying that legacy forward," Deputy Whitmore added.

"Principal and staff at St. Catherine's continue to demonstrate what is possible when education is rooted in care, courage and community. I am particularly excited for the future of the school, with the announcement of a state-of-the-art new facility in Kilcoole. It's a testament to the continued commitment to giving every child the space, support, and respect they deserve," Deputy Whitmore noted.

Deputy Whitmore also extended a warm thank you to the wider community, families, and volunteers who have supported the school through the years. She also extended a special word of thanks to the Transition Year students from St David's Holy Faith Secondary School, who volunteered their time to help out at

the celebration today.

"This was a golden celebration in every sense, not just marking time, but recognising impact. St. Catherine's has transformed lives, and its future is bright. I look forward to seeing it continue to grow and inspire for the next 50 years," Deputy Whitmore concluded.



Pictured above: Jennifer Whitmore celebrating 50 years of St. Catherine's Special School with students from St. David's (above) and St. Catherine's staff (below).

Whitmore calls out €16m funding for St Catherine's

'The money was promised, the project is ready, the delay is not acceptable'

Social Democrats TD for Wicklow, Jennifer Whitmore, has called on the Government to immediately release the €16 million in Immigrant Investor Programme (IIP) funding promised to St Catherine's Association in Kilcoole, which supports children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

"St Catherine's has done everything asked of them. They've jumped through every hoop, submitted every document, and waited patiently. This project has been ready for years, it just needs to be signed off on," Deputy Whitmore said.

"There are vital facilities for some of the most vulnerable people in our community waiting on this funding - an adult day centre, a respite centre, and an administration hub. The delay is not just frustrating, it's deeply unfair," Deputy Whitmore explained.

"Only €400,000 of



Deputy Whitmore.

the €16 million has been released so far. That's not good enough. The rest of the funding is sitting in limbo while families and staff continue to wait," Deputy Whitmore continued.

"I've spoken with Brendan Whelan, Chair of St Catherine's, and it's clear that the organisation has done everything right. The only thing missing is political will," Deputy Whitmore added.

"This is public money, already committed. There is no excuse for the Department of Justice to continue dragging its feet. I'm calling on the Minister to intervene immediately, confirm the full release of the €16 million, and ensure that this long-overdue project can finally move forward," Deputy Whitmore concluded.

National Youth Work conference calls for investment and collaboration to transform poverty into potential

President Michael D. Higgins highlights "crucial role" of Youth Work

Ireland's Educations & Training Boards (ETBs), including Kildare & Wicklow ETB, have called for sustainable investment in youth services and better collaboration across education, youth services and families to tackle child poverty, school absenteeism and mental health challenges, and to support young people to thrive.

Speaking in advance of the national Youthwork Matters conference which took place in Galway on Thursday 29th of May, Paddy Lavelle General Secretary of Education & Training Boards Ireland (ETBI) said: "Against the backdrop of growing concern about child poverty, school absenteeism, and mental health challenges, we're shining a light on youth work as a transformative force for young people - even in the face of adversity. Youth work is not just a service; it is a lifeline for young people in communities affected by economic hardship and child poverty. Youth workers help our young people build resilience, develop skills, and access education and opportunities that might otherwise be out of reach."

In a message of support to the

160+ youthwork leaders, practitioners and participants attending the event, hosted in partnership with Galway & Roscommon ETB, President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins highlights the "crucial role" of youthwork: "Its contemporary focus, and it is so important now more than ever, is on those who face particular challenges or who live on society's margins, young people experiencing economic hardship, social exclusion, or cultural displacement, members of the Traveller community, our migrant communities, LGBTQ+ youth, and all those who may find themselves isolated or vulnerable."

A key theme of the conference was the relationship between youth work and education. The recent move of youth work policy and funding to the new

Department of Education and Youth has been welcomed as a step in the right direction. ETBI's Youth Support Services Manager Ruth Griffin, stated: "This move reflects a growing understanding that supporting young people's wellbeing, school attendance, and life chances requires a holistic approach-one that values both formal education and non-formal, community-based learning. However, this shift must be matched with sustainable investment, better integration across services, and meaningful collaboration between schools, youth services, and families. We cannot expect youth work to plug the gaps in education, housing, and mental health support without the resources to do so, but with proper funding and recognition, youth work can be the glue that

holds communities together, and the spark that ignites change."

Education and Training Boards are charged with responsibility for Youth Work in the ETB 2013 Act which identifies Youth Work as a planned programme of education designed for the purpose of aiding and enhancing the personal and social development of young persons through their voluntary participation, and which is (a) complementary to their formal, academic or vocational education and training; and (b) provided primarily by voluntary youth work organisations (ETB Act 2013 and Youth Work Act 2001).

Collectively, the sixteen Education and Training Boards have responsibility for 30 Community National Schools and 250 post primary schools with over 117,000 students.

Further delays to Blessington school expansion

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore, has criticised the Department of Education for ongoing delays to the long-promised extension of Blessington Community College, demanding immediate clarity from the Minister.

"I was contacted by concerned parents who are rightly frustrated and anxious about the lack of progress on this project," Deputy Whitmore said. "This extension has been promised for years, and yet we're still no closer to seeing it delivered. Once these parents got in touch, I wrote to the Minister to request a timeline on the completion of the extension.

"I received an update from Minister Norma Foley in response to my query, which confirmed that while planning permission was granted earlier this year, the project is still only at the design stage. The Department stated that it cannot

give any indication of when construction will begin or when the school will be ready. That's simply not good enough," Deputy Whitmore explained.

"This is a school that urgently needs to expand to meet the needs of a growing population. The project was already pushed back from December 2024 to September 2025, and now even that revised timeline is in doubt. Parents and students deserve certainty. We need transparency in the project management of this build, a timeline for completion and it needs to be delivered on time," Deputy Whitmore continued. The project, which has been

devolved to the Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB), was expanded in 2023 to cater for 1,000 students and six special education needs classes. Despite this, progress has stalled.

"The Department's inability to provide a clear timeline undermines public confidence and leaves families in limbo. We need urgent action, not more delays," Deputy Whitmore stated.

"I will continue to push for answers and accountability. The children, parents and teachers of Blessington and West Wicklow have waited long enough," Deputy Whitmore concluded.



Jennifer Whitmore TD at Blessington Community College.

Brittas Bay NS are National Explorers Ocean Champions

The Marine Institute has announced that Brittas Bay Mixed National School, has been awarded the prestigious Explorers Ocean Champion Award for 2024-2025. This national recognition celebrates the school's outstanding all-school STEAM project, "Why Keeping the Ocean Healthy Matters in Education," demonstrating an exceptional commitment to marine education and ocean stewardship.

The award was officially presented to the enthusiastic students and staff during their vibrant World Ocean Day exhibition and Garden Party. Jennifer Whitmore TD and Mr. Joe Silke, Director of Marine Environment and Food Safety Services, Marine Institute, jointly presented the accolade, commending the school's remarkable collaborative efforts among teachers, students, and the local community in successfully executing their comprehensive marine-themed 'Healthy Ocean School Project'.

A Project That Inspires and Educates

Jennifer Whitmore

TD, a staunch advocate for environmental education, lauded the depth and creativity of the students' work. "The children's project was truly inspiring. They explored everything from the microscopic world of phytoplankton to the fundamental process of photosynthesis, and even creating giant whale artwork on the shore to bring their learning vividly to life. I was profoundly impressed by their innovative approach and dedication," she stated.

Deputy Whitmore particularly highlighted the power of the school's holistic engagement: "What struck me most was the whole-school approach. Every child,

every teacher, and crucially, parents and the wider community, were actively involved. This level of collaboration is incredibly powerful and demonstrates the profound difference a collective effort can make."

She added, "From the practical beach cleans and engaging family competitions to the rigorous scientific investigations and captivating artwork, this wasn't merely a school project; it was a burgeoning movement towards greater ocean awareness and action within their community."

Setting a National Standard for Marine Education

"As we commemorate

World Ocean Day 2025, this award serves as a timely and potent reminder of the critical importance of marine education for our youth," Deputy Whitmore underscored. "It is imperative that we support more schools in undertaking such impactful work. I wish to extend my sincerest commendation to Principal Una Gallinagh, the visionary lead teachers of the project Imelda Burke and Carmel Skelly, and the outstanding outreach work of Mona McCrea and the Explorers team from the Marine Institute's Explorers Programme. Brittas Bay NS has truly set a national example of what it means to be 'Ocean Champions'. It was a

truly special occasion to celebrate with the students as they received this well-deserved award."

Nurturing Environmentally Conscious Citizens

Una Gallinagh, Principal of Brittas Bay NS, expressed immense pride in the school's achievement. "The Explorers all-school project propelled our school to an unprecedented level in understanding the vital importance of biodiversity and caring for our precious environment. Crucially, it provided invaluable interdisciplinary learning opportunities, seamlessly connecting science, art and civic education."

Ms. Gallinagh articulated the school's philosophy on conservation: "Integrating ocean conservation into the school curriculum is absolutely vital for cultivating environmentally conscious citizens. Given our school's unique coastal location, the health of our ocean directly influences our

way of life. This project has not only equipped our students with essential knowledge but has also instilled lifelong sustainable habits.

"Our dedicated teachers and enthusiastic students are working collaboratively to raise awareness, not just within our school community, but significantly within our wider local community. We firmly believe that knowledge is power. By thoroughly investigating ocean ecosystems, we can inspire meaningful change and encourage everyone to cherish and protect the very system that sustains us," Ms. Gallinagh affirmed. "We strongly advocate for other schools to implement similar initiatives. By educating the next generation about ocean health, we empower them to become passionate advocates for a sustainable future. We sincerely hope our project serves as an inspiring model for other schools to emulate."

Inspiring the Next Generation of Ocean Scientists and Communicators

Joe Silke, Director of Marine Environment and Food Safety Services at the Marine Institute, conveyed his immense satisfaction in presenting the Explorers Ocean Champion award to Brittas Bay National School. "Witnessing the profound work of the students, who collaborated with artist Jane Groves and Explorers outreach officer Mona McCrea throughout their 'Healthy Ocean STEAM project', truly underscores the paramount importance of children learning about marine science from a young age."



Mr. Silke was particularly captivated by the students' deep conceptual understanding: "I was especially impressed by how the children ingeniously connected the learning of photosynthesis to phytoplankton in the ocean, culminating in the creation of a magnificent

giant cyanotype artwork on the shore using the sun's energy. By grasping the ocean's crucial role in climate balance and biodiversity, these children also took tangible action - passionately sharing their newfound knowledge with others, thereby making a substantial impact within their school and local community."

Concluding, Mr. Silke extended his gratitude to the dedicated teachers and supportive parents: "The children's evident enthusiasm and comprehensive knowledge, spanning from microscopic plankton to majestic whales, and their articulate highlighting of humanity's impact on the marine environment, was exemplified by their confidence as clear communicators. We are absolutely delighted that their participation in the Explorers Programme has significantly contributed to fostering a strong cohort of marine scientists, communicators, and creators, for both the present and the future."



Brittas Bay NS celebrating their Explorers Oceans Champions Award with Marine Institute Director Joe Silke, Explorers Outreach team, Mona McCrea, and Cushla Dromgool-Regan, artist Jane Groves, teacher Imelda Burke and Principal Una Gallinagh, Jennifer Whitmore TD, Cathaoirleach Paul O'Brien and Malcolm Byrne TD.

 <p>An Roinn Cosanta Department of Defence</p> <p>ARMY RIFLE RANGES</p> <p>WARNING</p> <p>If you are walking in the countryside do not walk onto any of the Military Firing Ranges as you could be in GREAT DANGER at all times from unexploded shells and other dangerous ammunition RED FLAGS indicate LIVE FIRING Watch out for the warning signs AND TAKE CARE!</p>	 <p>An Roinn Cosanta Department of Defence</p> <p>RAONTA RAIDHFILÍ AN AIRM</p> <p>FOLÁIREAMH</p> <p>Má bhíonn tú ag siúl faoin tuath, ná siúl isteach i gceann ar bith de na Raonta Lámhaigh Míleata mar d'fhéadfá a bheith i nDEARG-BHAOL i gcónaí de bharr sliogáin neamhphléasctha agus armlón contúirteach eile Is ionann BRATACHA DEARGA agus BEO-LÁMHACH Bí ag faire do na comharthaí foláirimh AGUS BÍ AR d'AIRDEALL!</p>
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Greystones racing team need vital funding to compete on global stage

Red Kite racers need sponsors to reach world finals

Red Kite Racing, a young team from St. David's Holy Faith Secondary School in Greystones are set to represent Ireland on the global stage, if they can secure vital funding.

Six Irish secondary school students have raced to the top of the podium at the F1 in Schools National Finals, earning the honour of representing Ireland at the prestigious F1 in Schools World Finals in Singapore this September. Now, they face their greatest challenge yet - funding the journey.

The team, named Red

Kite Racing from St David's Holy Faith, has spent months engineering a miniature F1 car to top international standards, winning acclaim for innovation, design, and teamwork.

The school won in 2009 and now have another shot at global glory, but without sponsorship, they may be forced to stay home.

The Red Kite Racing team consists of Conor Hawkins (Team Manager), Alannah Lynch (Marketing Manager), Sarah Walker (Resource Manager), Deaglan O'Neill (Design Engineer), Eoin O'Neill (Manufacturing Engineer) and Liam Simpson (Graphic Designer).

STEM Racing - Supported by Formula 1

is a STEM-based competition for 11-19 year olds, where the aim is to design and manufacture a 1/20 scale model F1 Car.

Teams come together, design, manufacture, test and brand their car. Teams then race at events such as Regional and National finals with the best teams then qualifying for prestigious

World Finals where they can compete for the crown of world champions.

In the 2024 season, Red Kite Racing competed as Euro Dullahan Racing where they achieved a 4th place finish nationally, whilst winning the brand identity award and winning reaction-racing.

They say "After

reflecting on the 2024 campaign, we regrouped as a team with two new members, Alannah and Sarah. After a long decision, we decided to rebrand and go again from the start with Red Kite Racing."

This rebrand paved the way for them to win the National Final, along with the portfolio award and fastest reaction time which secured their place at the 2025 World Finals in Singapore.

"We've worked so hard for this opportunity. To know we're good enough to represent Ireland, but might not make it because of money, it's tough," said Alannah.

National Talent, Global Stage

F1 in Schools is the largest global STEM competition for secondary students, supported by major players in the real-world Formula 1 industry. The World Finals in Singapore will be judged by representatives from F1 teams including Red Bull Racing, Ferrari, and Mercedes-AMG.



The cost to attend, covering travel, materials, uniforms, and competition entry, is estimated at €40,000, most of which must be raised by the team through corporate sponsorship and fundraising.

An Investment in Ireland's Future Innovators

With a strong focus on science, engineering, design, and teamwork, F1 in Schools is more than a competition - it's a launchpad for Ireland's next generation of innovators, engineers, and entrepreneurs.

"This isn't just about us. It's about showing what Irish students can do. We're ready, we just need the chance to get there," added teacher Darren Timlin.

Call for Sponsors

The team is now urgently seeking support from Irish companies, industry partners, and private sponsors who want to champion youth innovation and represent Ireland on a world stage.

If you choose to sponsor, they can offer your company a wide variety of promotion. Depending on how much you sponsor different perks will be received.

Sponsors will receive branding on team uniforms, pit displays, and car designs, and will be promoted through national and international media coverage of the finals.

For inquiries about sponsorship, please contact:
sponsorship.f1schools@stdavids.ie



The Red Kite Racing team (L-R); Alannah Lynch (Marketing Manager), Liam Simpson (Graphic Designer), Eoin O'Neill (Manufacturing Engineer), Deaglan O'Neill (Design Engineer), Conor Hawkins (Team Manager), and Sarah Walker (Resource Manager).

Roundwood racer Fionn is rapido in Spain

Wicklow native Fionn Stephens took part in the first round of the Copa Espana Supersport300 held in Jerez over the weekend of June 7th-8th June.

It was first time stepping up this class and his first race on the Irish Talent Team Kawasaki Ninja400 with the Irish Talent Team. The long journey to Jerez started on Tuesday morning in Dublin Airport, later land-

ing in Barcelona collecting the hire van and picking the bike up on route arriving in Jerez on Thursday morning.

Fionn had two 20-minute practice sessions on Friday morning which he spent setting the bike

up for the track. It was straight into qualifying on Saturday and Fionn amazed his team and surprised a lot of his fellow competitors by qualifying 5th for the starting grid.

In the first race on Saturday Fionn did not get

a great start falling back to 9th position on the first lap, but he was determined to not let this deter him and with some exciting overtaking, he battled his way back to second place at the chequered flag.

The second race took place on Sunday and Fionn was determined to see if he could improve on his second place in race one. Getting a much better start this time round, Fionn made a challenge for the lead, but unfortunately, he exceeded the limits of what the grip that his tyres could offer and fell off, ending up in the gravel trap.

Overall, a very positive weekend learning about the new bike and now looking forward to competing in Aragon in two weeks' time in the ESBK Supersport300 championship.

You can follow Fionn on his socials @f1racing17 and contact us through them if you would like to get involved.



Wicklow's Fionn Stephens on the podium alongside Valentino Rossi and Marc Marquez.

Sportsmanship tops the bill at Cumann na mBunscol Sports Day

On June 11th schools from all over Wicklow had their colours on and were ready to take part in the Cumann na mBunscol Sports Day in Charlesland Sports and Recreation Park in Greystones.

The day began with a parade around the track with each school displaying their banner, wearing their school's colours with pride and singing Amhrán na bhFiann.

In the parade the best turned out school was Greystones Educate Together and they were presented with the inaugural

Ó Broin Cup by its namesake Ciarán Byrne who gave many years of service to not only the promotion of Gaelic games in primary schools in

Wicklow, but also on a national level when he served as National PRO of Cumann na mBunscol.

After the parade, activities got underway with the relay teams taking to the track for the first event of the day. There were races for Under 8's up to Over 12's which covered different distances including 50m, 80m, 100m, 200m and 600m. Field events included long kick, long puck, ball throw, long jump and tug of war.

Cumann na mBunscol Chill Mhantain said "Cathaoirleach Ciara did a fine job of MC and kept every event ticking along nicely. Each boy and girl represented their school impeccably and should be very proud of themselves. Special thanks to all the teachers, parents, past pupils, first aid team and volunteers who assisted in the running of the day. Thanks to Teresa Kinnane and the staff in Charlesland, we are grateful to have the use of such fantastic facilities.

"The Sports Day is a day run by volunteers and without such good nature and teamwork it would be possible to hold such an event, to all of those Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Chill Mhantain are indebted. Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine!

"Finally, and most importantly well done to each and every child who took part, many of whom

have seldom, or maybe never, ran on a track before so this is a wonderful experience for them. We hope it gives them a grá for it and that they will be back again. Regardless it was fantastic to see so many children active and having fun. The level of sportsmanship displayed on the day was truly remarkable. Children could be seen shaking hands at the end of events, congratulating each other on the podium and helping each other out. This lovely atmosphere of sportsmanship was a credit to them and their schools. It is days like this that children remember and the Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Sports Day is one such memory that will stay with them forever."

Participating schools were: Gaelscoil na gCloch Liath, Gaelscoil Uí Chéadaigh, Greystones Community National School, Greystones Educate Together, Kilcoole Primary School, Ravenswell Primary School, St. Patrick's Bray, Newtown, St. Brigid's Greystones, St. Fergal's NS, St. Mary's and St. Gerard's Enniskerry, St. Peter's Bray, St. Cronan's, Holy Rosary Wicklow, St. Kevin's Greystones, St. Andrew's Bray, Gaelscoil Chill Mhantain, St. Pat's Wicklow, Ashford, St. Laurence's, Curtles-town, Rathdrum BNS, Kilmacanogue NS.



Best Turned Out School were Greystones Educate Together.



Ravenswell in the parade.



Tug of War winners Ravenswell Primary School, St Patrick's National School, Wicklow Town, and St Patrick's, Bray.



Boys Relay Winners St Laurence's National School, Greystones, St Brigid's School, Greystones, and Greystones Educate Together.



Race action.



Girls Relay winners St Patrick's, Bray, St Brigid's School, Greystones and Kilcoole Primary School.

Coming up at Mermaid...



Fishamble presents:
The Black Wolfe Tone

17th - 18th June at 8pm. Tickets: €22/€20

The Black Wolfe Tone is a thrilling new play about identity, raging against the machine, and how young men deal or don't deal, with the darkness. A fast-paced journey that interrogates our culture of silence, the mind, and growing up mixed race in Ireland. At its heart, it's about a young boy seeking forgiveness. The inner child wanting only to be acknowledged, loved, and held.

To book tickets visit mermaidartscentre.ie or call 01 272 4030.



FILM: The Tasting

(Cert: CLUB). Monday 16th June at 8pm. Tickets: €10/€8

Jacques (Bernard Campan) is in his 50s and divorced. Not only is his health failing, his wine business is on the brink of bankruptcy. He sees little joy in his future until kind, open-hearted, Hortense (Isabelle CarrÈ) wanders into his shop looking for a bottle of wine. And so the scene is set for a textbook romantic comedy, with two characters - who are complete opposites and both harbouring past heartache - who are undeniably drawn to each other.

To book tickets visit mermaidartscentre.ie or call 01 272 4030

Arklow band Novatone
release 'Sunny Day'
inspired by N11 commute

On 13th June, Novatone released their second single 'Sunny Day'. The band is fronted by Ann Marie Walsh and Mark McCorry who are based just outside Arklow and the new single is available now on Bandcamp and is now on all streaming platforms.

Mark's daily commute on the N11 is the inspiration for 'Sunny Day'.

"On my drive to work, I pass the exit for Brittas Bay on the N11. Some days all I want to do is put on my indicator and drive straight to the beach. I began thinking about the film 'Falling Down' & the scene where Michael Douglas' character just abandons his car. That scene resonates with me! I'm sure most commuters know that feeling of wanting to leave the rat race."

Having only played their first full band gig in November, Novatone have a busy live schedule ahead - they will sup-

port Waterford artist Tadhg Williams on Sat 5th July at Geoff's Cafe Bar Waterford. They play Kilkenny on Friday 11th July at Cleere's Theatre - this is a double headliner for Novatone and Tadhg Williams. On Sat 26th July, Novatone will celebrate the launch of 'Sunny Day' with an intimate acoustic performance in The Star Bar on Baggot Street, Dublin.

'Sunny Day' is the follow up to Novatone's debut single 'Spotlight' which was released in February - Hot Press Magazine reviewed it as "indie pop resplendence" while Sarah Corcoran from Pillow Queens said "Spotlight reminds me of

Rilo Kiley meets Belle and Sebastian meets Carnival era The Cardigans - very cool."

Novatone are Ann Marie Walsh on vocals and Mark McCorry on vocals and guitars - originally from Kilkenny, they are based on the Wicklow /Wexford border. Having performed as an acoustic duo previously, they expanded into a full band and played their first electric Novatone gig in November 2024 to a packed room in Little Whelan's. In February they headlined Whelan's Upstairs and in April they shared the main stage at Whelan's with Sack, Mundy, Brian Branigan (A Lazarus

Soul) at the Stay Human fundraiser. They also played an intimate acoustic concert at Fennellys in Callan.

'Sunny Day' was written by Ann Marie Walsh and Mark McCorry and recorded, mixed and mastered by Chris Byrne. It features Dylan Bailey on bass and Aengus 'The Goose' Samuel-Maher on drums. Mark was a member of acclaimed Kilkenny band Kaydee who signed to EMI Records, released an album and toured in the UK and Ireland. Ann Marie is a radio presenter who works in Audio Creation and Arts PR but who began her career as a musician and music booker.



Mark McCorry and Ann Marie Walsh of Novatone.

Dave Clancy
coming to Arklow

On Thurs 19th June Arklow Roots Music presents an intimate concert (donations based) with Galway singer-songwriter Dave Clancy who has just released his latest album 'Live Your Own Dream'.

It was warmly received by Hot Press magazine. Dave continues to craft deeply resonant folk music, blending rich storytelling with evocative melodies. He is a versatile musician whose songs and finger-style guitar playing combine the acoustic folk of Nick Drake while maintaining strong links to the Irish folk tradition. Venue is Bridge Hotel, Arklow, and support act is locally based duo Bernard and Cilene, with an engaging style and impressive harmony vocals.



Arklow Roots Music presents: Stella Prince

Bridge Hotel, Arklow, Monday 23rd June

As part of their international series Arklow Roots Music, on Mon 23rd June, presents an intimate concert with Stella Prince, an up and coming singer-songwriter from New York and currently based in Nashville.

Winner of the 2023 Folk Alliance First Timers Scholarship and one of the youngest artists to be given an Official Showcase at Folk Alliance 2025, she was a finalist for the 2024 John Cirillo Songwriting Award. Stella currently resides in Nashville. The concert is donations based. 'Crying on a Saturday Night' is one of her best songs, and her material can be found on Spotify, YOUTUBE and usual outlets. The support act is Tanya and Zak from the local Ukrainian community. Venue is Bridge Hotel Arklow, and 8.30 pm is show time. Reservations can be made on Eventbrite.



Stella Prince.

Don Baker: My Story

Mermaid Arts Centre, Saturday 21st June at 8pm. €31

This is Don's first Solo Tour where he will share tales of 55 years On the Road, Life in the Inner City, his love of The Blues and of the Harmonica, Stories of his working with Jim Sheridan, Daniel Day Lewis, Sinead O'Connor and more. Together with the story of his songs on Harmonica and Guitar, this is a tour not to be missed. To book tickets visit mermaidartscentre.ie or call 01 272 4030.



Bronagh Lennon, BA (Hons) Art, with 'Presence in the Absence', an installation of three sculptures, at IADT's annual graduate showcase 'On Show 2025'.

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Members of Kilcoole Athletics Club at the Athletics Wicklow 5km Road Race in Arklow.

Alpine Unveiled at Mondello

Alpine is the sporty and elite French car brand, founded in the 1950s primarily to develop standard Renault Cars into Monte Carlo Rally winners.

by Martin McCarthy

In this they were successful, and the blue (the French national colour) sleek 1970s A110 was a consistent winner in many branches of motorsport. It was nimble, light and fast - but never brought to Ireland as they were not made in right hand drive.

Moving on, as the years passed and the money to partake in top line racing and rallying rocketed, the firm was taken over by Renault. Today Alpine have their own Formula One team and carry the flag for the Renault Group - often with Estaban Ocan and Pierre Gasly at the wheel.

Now for the first time, Alpine road cars are available to Irish motorists as Ceder Group - importers of Renault - have unveiled the racy A110 and the



ultra posh Renault 5 based Alpine A290.

Being a racing brand, Mondello Park was the ideal venue to show off the immense capability of the current A110, with its vivid acceleration, tremendous brakes and superb cornering around the Co. Kildare venue. Powered by a 1.8

litre turbo engine it is a road legal rally car, yet still quite practical.

The 2025 European Car of the Year winning A290 is now available from €39,690 at Windsor MotorMall located in Dublin, at junction 5 of the M50.

Alpine A290 is the first model of a new

electric generation, inaugurating Alpine's 'Dream Garage' where by 2030 the brand will have 7 fully electric cars in its stable.

In addition to the standard A290 model Irish customers can purchase for immediate delivery the A290 GT Performance, GTS and Prem-

iere Edition, with all versions available to order from the factory. A290 pricing starts at €36,690 (including SEAI grant) for the 180hp GT version, with the 220hp GT performance coming in at €38,990 and the range-topping Premiere Edition priced at €44,700.

PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Lee O'Farrell seeks planning permission for: The incorporation of existing carport into the existing dwelling to create new habitable space along with relocation of the existing main entrance door to the side of the property and the introduction of new ground floor windows at the front and side of the dwelling at 5 Glenview Park, Kilpedder, Co. Wicklow, A63 PD79. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Barry Brennan seeks a full planning permission for a new Mixed-Use Commercial / Building. The development will consist of a commercial building circa 330 msq, that contains the following: (1 No.) Café/Restaurant Unit, (1 No.) Retail Unit at ground floor. (2 No.) Co-Working office units at first floor, an extension of the existing carpark / outdoor, amenity areas, bicycle parking, a new packaged effluent disposal system Biofilter with partially raised sand polishing filter to current EPA standards all together with associated site development works at Ballynacarrig, Brittas Bay, County Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I, Catherine Allan, seek planning permission for the following development. Demolition of existing extension and conservatory to the rear of the house. Construction of a pitched single story extension to the rear of the existing house with velux windows to rear extension. Construction of a porch to the front of the house with disabled access. Subdivision of the existing ground floor living room into a living space and bedroom suitable for disabled use. Conversion of upstairs small rear bedroom to toilet and shower room. General refurbishment and replacement of existing utilities in the main body of the house. Insulation of the house via a mix of internal and external insulation. Construction of a single story shed to the rear of the existing property at 27, O'Byrne Road, Bray, Co Wicklow, A98 K6D8. 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 five weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.



Carmel Cashin and family at the Baltinglass Municipal District's Cathaoirleach's Awards.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We the Board of Management, Greystones Educate Together seek planning permission for: The introduction of a new porch shelter to the main entrance of Greystones Educate Together School, Blacklion, Greystones, Co. Wicklow A63 YE36. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

ATTENTION

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'EU proposals could lead to a rental car shortage'

Ireland South MEP Cynthia Ni Mhurchu has called on the EU Commission to clarify their proposals that would force rental car companies to switch their entire feet over to electric vehicles in a very short period of time.

Ni Mhurchu who is a force, said there is no high-ranking member of the EU Tourism task-rental operators at Dublin Airport, but 52% of all car rentals in Ireland originate from Dublin airport. "Forcing car rental

companies to go electric before we have the necessary infrastructure in place will damage rural tourism by making rental cars more expensive and less available.

"I am 100% in favour of the switch to electric vehicles but if we put the cart before the horse in this case, we will hurt rural tourism in areas such as Clare, Cork, Kerry, Wexford and beyond. That means lost jobs for coastal communities and that is something I cannot stand over."

Ni Mhurchu welcomed existing targets that all new cars purchased from January 2035 be zero emission cars. Her concerns are around the news that the EU Commission is now considering the introduction of mandatory electric vehicle quotas for corporate fleets ahead of the 2035 deadline as part of legislative initiative to be published by the end of 2025. This would mean that rental car companies would have to switch to electric before the 2035 deadline.

According to Ni Mhurchu the car rental industry in Ireland could not cope with such a burden and it would ultimately lead to less rental cars at a higher price.

"We need to learn to

walk before we can run and yes, car rental companies should go electric but we need to invest in the charging infrastructure across Europe first, in particular at Dublin airport where 52% of all rentals come from. We are making strides in developing the infrastructure, with Minister O'Brien announcing a large investment in charging infrastructure last week, but it takes time.

"Irish tourism depends heavily on the car rental sector. Rental cars allow tourists to travel to remote parts of Ireland, where there isn't the necessary charging infrastructure. Tourists would be dependent on public charging points, and we just don't have enough in rural and remote parts of Ireland, as things stand."

According to Ni Mhurchu the proposals are well meaning but more time needs to be given to allow rental fleets to transition smoothly.

"This timeframe will lead to a higher turnaround time for rental cars, and higher costs for rental car companies, meaning higher rental costs for tourists with less available rental cars in the short to medium term."

Ni Mhurchu says this

will have a knock-on impact on the more rural parts of Ireland where tourists now visit because they can get readily available affordable rental cars.

The Car Rental Council of Ireland, cite higher maintenance costs of electric vehicles and argue that the average cost of renting an electric car is currently 33% higher than the average cost of renting a traditional car in Ireland. That average cost includes the

current VRT relief. Similar proposals to those now being considered by the EU Commission have already been rejected by the incoming German government, as well as in Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Finland, Italy and Slovakia. Ni Mhurchu has called on the EU Commission to clarify their position and what impact any such proposals and new timelines would have on Irish Tourism.



The recent Team Stella Coffee Morning in aid of Prader-Willi Association of Ireland was a huge success. Organisers say "We're absolutely overwhelmed by the incredible turnout and even bigger generosity shown at our Team Stella Coffee Morning! The community spirit was truly heart-warming. A huge thank you to the local helpers, the Timmons and Leonard families, Essie for the wonderful music, the children who came along with such excitement and joy, and everyone who attended, donated or supported us in any way. Thanks to all of you, we've raised over €7,500 for the Prader-Willi Association of Ireland (PWSAI). A special shoutout to Bruno, our teddy mascot, and to the 40 plus businesses who donated prizes and financial support, your contributions truly made a difference!"

CLASSIFIEDS

Daily Gospels

Come to me all you who are weary and I will give you rest

God so loved the world that he gave His only son

Love thy neighbour as thyself

I am the Bread of Life

There are many rooms in my father's house

If you love me keep my commandments

Don't immerse in a life of pleasures.

THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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

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Camp 2: Wicklow Town	July 7th - 11th	12.30 - 3.30pm
Camp 3: Enniskerry	July 14th - 18th	9am - 12 noon
Camp 4: Enniskerry	July 14th - 18th	12.30 - 3.30pm

East Glendalough School, Wicklow Town and The Schoolhouse for Art Enniskerry
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