

LOCAL Wicklow Times

WE DELIVER! - for 36 years



LETTER OF THANKS
Page 8



HERITAGE PLAN
Page 10



EWAN'S CYCLE
Page 12

Delivered to 44,500
homes & businesses

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

Tuesday 8th July 2025 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

TO FEE OR NOT TO FEE

Students' fees have driven a wedge between government parties. Simon Harris TD, when he held the Higher and Further Education portfolio reduced university registration fees by €1000 and promised to gradually abolish them. The current Minister for Higher Education, Fianna Fáil TD James Lawless, in a radio interview, indicated that they would in fact rise this year. Under questioning he backtracked a little, saying that some students, not all students, would face an increase. He then said that over the course of the government (5 years) they would be reduced.

This announcement took an embarrassed Simon Harris by surprise as it seems he wasn't informed of it beforehand. There then followed a number of confusing and conflicting statements by various party spokespersons.

Any proposal to offer

partial relief to some students while maintaining the full contribution rate for others must be strenuously resisted according to Jennifer Whitmore TD.

"While Tánaiste Simon Harris and Minister James Lawless have attempted to

defend a possible two-tier model, any such fudge would amount to a serious betrayal of trust.

"We are now seeing a clear trend emerging, with Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael ministers promising one thing during an election campaign and then attempt-



Sisters Yana and Yeva Antoniuk at the BBQ Party to celebrate Ukrainian and Irish friendship at Coolnagreina, Greystones. Pic: Michael Kelly.

ing to backtrack on these commitments once in office. This is just the latest example of why this government cannot be trusted.

"Raising student contribution fees by €1,000 per year in the middle of a cost of living crisis will make third level education more inaccessible for some students, placing an intolerable financial burden on their families.

"There is growing concern that the clear commitment in the programme for government to reduce - and gradually phase out - the student contribution fee is already being reneged on. This is against the backdrop of a national housing emergency, with average student rents in Dublin exceeding €1,200 per month - significantly more than other European cities. Extortionate rents are

forcing some students to commute long distances every day, defer taking up third level places, or even drop out of college altogether.

"Phasing out fees would make third level education more accessible and equitable. However, the two-tier model now being mooted is a watered-down version of the government's original commitment.

"Instead of providing clarity and relief after a week of chaotic messaging from government ministers, this latest proposal is generating unnecessary confusion and anxiety as the upcoming academic year approaches. Students and their families need to know what they are going to be paying come September. They deserve certainty, not shifting promises or political manoeuvring.

"The government

must follow through on its original promise and continue to reduce fees

each year until they are abolished entirely. Anything less would

amount to a grievous betrayal of trust."

Continued on page 3

THE FURNITURE SALE

Hugo 5 Piece Sectional Corner
WAS €2495 **NOW €1745**

Storm Power Recliner 2 Seater
WAS €1595 **NOW €1095**

Velora 5ft Bed Frame with Ottoman Bundle
WAS €2034 **NOW €1295**

Siena Extending Dining Table
WAS €1295 **NOW €845**

FIND US
Take Exit 7 on the N11.
We're just 5 minutes from the exit!

Flanagan Kerins®
'Furniture for Life'
www.flanagankerins.ie +353 1 281 3338 sales@flanagankerins.ie
Unit 3, Bray Retail Park, Southern Cross Rd, Bray, Co. Wicklow, A98 W985

LIVE THE ADVENTURE

Tentipi

embrace the elements

Adventure and Glamping Tents, Hammocks, and lots more.

NORDIC IRELAND
www.nordicireland.ie
Contact Huw O'Toole
on 087 804 1636

TIMORE, NEWCASTLE, GREYSTONES,
CO. WICKLOW A63WY63, IRELAND
T: +353 (0) 87 804 1636 E: INFO@NORDICIRELAND.IE
W: WWW.NORDICIRELAND.IE

AUTENTIC
THE FINEST GLAMPING TENTS IN IRELAND

Brockagh Country Market

Shop to find bargains and unique handmade crafts at the next Brockagh Market/Carboot in Laragh (A98 D3H1) on 13th July. Open to the public from 10am to 3pm. Tea, coffee and food snacks are available. The barrier will be locked from 6pm Saturday evening until 8am Sunday morning. You can contact Brockagh Centre by phone 0404 45600 (Mon-Fri 9am to 4pm) or email brockaghoffice@gmail.com. All stallholders must pre book their space or no entry on the day. See www.brockaghresourcecentre.ie. The Brockagh Market(carboot) is once a month on the 2nd Sunday (except Jan/Feb).

Roundwood Ceili

A Set Dancing Ceili will be held on Saturday 2nd August in Roundwood Parish Hall at 9pm, finishing at midnight. The Templemichael Ceili band will be playing. The cost is €10. Contact Clare O'Toole on 087 764 9204.

Safety at Greystones harbour

A special reminder has been issued by Wicklow County Council that there is no swimming, diving or jumping allowed in Greystones harbour. This is in accordance with Greystones Harbour and Marina Bye Laws. Safety is the top priority, but it is everyone's responsibility to stay informed. Parents, especially, are asked to ensure their children are aware of these guidelines. Please ensure that children and minors understand the very serious dangers and prohibitions. Potential hazards include, but are not limited to: Propellers & backwash from vessels; Moving boats; Marine wildlife (seals, jellyfish, etc); Underwater obstructions; Strong currents & tides; Deep & shallow water; Slippery surfaces.

Please contact the Harbour Master Marina Operator for any inquiries or special permissions. Telephone 01 287 3131 or you can email info@greystonesharbourmarina.ie.

Shelton Abbey Open Day

Shelton Abbey, the open low-security prison in Arklow, is once again inviting the local community through its gates for its much-loved annual Open Day. Taking place on Tuesday, July 8th from 12pm to 4pm, the event promises a fun-filled afternoon for all ages, with a host of family-friendly activities planned and a strong focus on giving back to the Arklow community.

This year's event will include a wide variety of attractions, including a birds of prey demonstration, BBQ, mobile library, and a visit from the local fire brigade - with more surprises expected on the day. It's a great opportunity for families to come along, enjoy a relaxed afternoon out, and learn a little more about the work being done at Shelton Abbey.

Proceeds from the 2024 Open Day are being donated to Futures In Mind (formerly Talk To Tom), a local suicide prevention and mental health awareness organisation. This year, all proceeds will go to Arklow Cancer Support, helping to fund vital support services for people affected by cancer in the community.



Philip Carey, Anna Semenova and Yana Antoniuk, Roksolana Nazarko, Claudia Schmid, Mariana Yakubiv at the BBQ part at Coolnagreina, Greystones, to celebrate Ukrainian and Irish friendship.

Spinc Trail upgrades

Essential upgrades on the Spinc Trail in Glendalough are beginning this week.

The 1st phase will be to improve the trail between the boardwalk and the Glenealo bridge and is starting this week on 7th July, running for about 7-9 weeks. The length of time is weather dependent.

To complete this phase the section of the White Trail between Glenealo Bridge and the junction between the White and Red trails will be closed. Please note that Phase 1 affects only the White trail. The Red and Blue routes will be unaffected.

The White trail will only be open on the northern half of the loop, from the Miner's Village up to the Glenealo Bridge. At this point walkers will have to turn back and return the way they have come. Walkers

who want a looped trail are advised to walk the Red or Blue trails which shall both remain fully open during Phase 1.

The 2nd phase will begin once phase 1 is complete, possibly as early as end August. This phase may be in construction up to the end November. The 2nd phase will affect the White and Red trails. The Blue trail will remain unaffected. In Phase 2, a stretch of boardwalk with a stone pat will be replaced. The trail from the Blue & White trail junction to the Red & White trail junction will be closed during this period of construction. There will be a detour in place on forestry roads below this section.

BIFE launches new Academy of Performing Arts

As BIFE is developing a reputation for various performing arts such as Acting, Music performance and Dance, it's now developing an Academy of Performing Arts where these performance arts will be centred and thrive.

BIFE has invested in state of the art facilities for Acting, Music Performance, Dance and Film.

BIFE is also launching two new Honours Degree courses, one in business and one in Immersive Media. These are four-year degrees at Level 8. Those interested are advised to enrol now to avoid disappointment.

The BIFE Academy of Performing Arts offers Higher Diplomas in these fields and progression routes for students in these areas.

As a result of having these various performances together at the college, BIFE has a wonderful creative atmosphere and students of these arts can learn not just one of these arts but be involved in a school devoted to the performing arts, which are thriving in Ireland.

So if you want to be an actor, musician, singer, dancer or film maker enrol at BIFE. Principal Ray Tedders says that places are limited and filling up, so enrol now for the autumn schedule to avoid disappointment and remember there are no CAP points. Applicants will be asked to audition.

Benville Robinson LLP SOLICITORS

- Property
- Probate and Assisted Decision Making
- Commercial Litigation
- Medical Negligence
- Planning and Environmental
- General Litigation

Brian Robinson
B.B.L.S., L.L.M.
State Solicitor

Eilish Bradshaw
B.A., L.L.B., L.L.M.

Clare-Ann Temple L.L.B.

Ciarra O'Sullivan B.B.L.S., (Euro)

Hannah Stockwell-Quinn
B.C.L., L.L.M.

Peter McQuillan
B.A. (Mod) Leg Sc TCD

Seonadh Twomey
B.A., M.C.L., L.L.M.

24A Florence Road, Bray | Main Street, Newtownmountkenny.
T: 01 276 1330 E: info@benvillierobinson.ie
www.benvillierobinson.ie

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

Rev up for the Chrome Classic Car & Bike Show on Bray Seafront - 27th July

Buckle up for an unforgettable day of chrome, curves, and classic motoring nostalgia as The Chrome Classic Car & Bike Show revs into Bray Seafront on Sunday, July 27th, from 11 am to 7 pm.

Set against the breathtaking backdrop of the Bray coastline-directly opposite the former Esplanade Hotel-this family-friendly spectacle is a must-attend summer highlight for vintage enthusiasts, day-trippers, and families alike. With a gleaming array of vintage vehicles, rare bikes, retro motors, and beautifully restored classics, the event promises a journey through motoring history like no other.

From 11 am to 4 pm, the chrome will shine as

hundreds of iconic cars and bikes line the promenade - from polished Mustangs and Mini Coopers to rare café racers, muscle cars, VW camper vans, and more. It's a petrolhead's dream with a nod to every decade of motoring excellence.



WICKLOW
LOCAL Times

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

Shay Fitzmaurice, Managing Editor - shay@localtimes.ie

Ian Colgan, News Editor - ian@localtimes.ie

Sales / General enquiries - info@localtimes.ie

Progress report published on Cliff Walk re-opening

Progress is being made on the Bray to Greystones Cliff Walk project, with the publication of the first biweekly update from Wicklow County Council and engineering consultants RPS. The report outlines recent survey work, a clear schedule of upcoming assessments, and continued engagement with stakeholders as efforts continue to restore and reopen the popular coastal route.

The update, issued following a request by Tánaiste Simon Harris, marks a step forward in providing regular, transparent reporting on the long-closed amenity. The Tánaiste described the walk as a cherished local feature and said the new structure of updates would help drive momentum and accountability.

"This project is a top priority for me as a local TD and as Tánaiste," he said. "For too long, I felt there was a lacklustre approach to solving a key local feature for residents, tourists and businesses. Now we have a clear

reporting structure that holds the consultants and Wicklow County Council to account."

Cllr Stephen Stokes, Vice-Chair of the Bray-Greystones Cliff Walk Committee, also welcomed the action plan and outlined the technical work underway. "The Council is assessing risk areas, especially areas of high risk," he said. "Soon they will switch to drone surveys. It's great that we are able to harness the power of technology."

According to the progress report, an initial site walkover and data gathering

phase has been completed. Upcoming work includes:

- Week of 30th June: Further technical surveys and a detailed assessment of high-risk areas and historic instability zones.
- Week of 14th July: A scheduled drone survey to capture high-resolution video and generate a 3D textured model of the target area for engineering analysis.
- Week of 21st July: A key stakeholder meeting with Iarnród Éireann and other partners to coordinate findings and next steps.

Wicklow County Council continues to work closely with RPS Group to advance the project. Councillors in both Bray and Greystones have expressed a shared commitment to ensuring the walk is safely and sustainably reopened.

"The Bray to Greystones Cliff Walk is one of the jewels of our coastal heritage," said Cllr Stokes. "While progress may not always be visible, considerable behind-the-scenes work is being carried out to assess the route in detail. We are committed to delivering a safe and long-lasting solution, and I thank the public for their continued patience and interest."

The next meeting of the Bray to Greystones Cliff Walk Management Committee will take place on Tuesday, 8th July, at 12 noon in the Civic Offices in Bray, where further progress will be reviewed.



Bray to Greystones Cliff Walk barricade.



Maisie and Lorraine Smith from Bray enjoying the Wicklow Cup Final in Arklow, which was won by Wicklow Rovers.

TO FEE OR NOT TO FEE

Continued from page 1

Speaking during Leaders' Questions in the Dail last week, Deputy Whitmore criticised the Government's 'confused and vague approach' to reducing college fees, warning that it risks leaving students and families in limbo.

"It's been five days since the Minister for Higher Education dropped the bombshell that college fees would be higher this year. Since then, the Government has refused to make a clear statement on this policy. This is deeply confusing for families who are trying to plan for the year ahead. I've been contacted by numerous families and students in my own constituency who are going to be hugely impacted by this potential increase," Deputy Whitmore explained.

"Families deserve certainty, not vague promises or last-minute decisions. They need to know now what supports will be available to them in September. The Government's approach is chaotic and unfair.

"Families are already telling their children they can't go to university in Dublin because accommodation is too expensive and

hard to come by, and public transport is insufficiently developed. Now, since the Minister for Higher Education's bombshell, they have to figure out whether they can actually afford to send their children to university at all.

"College costs are spiralling, between fees, accommodation, transport, and materials. Government parties made commitments to reduce university fees during their election campaigns, and voters believed them. They then doubled down and included this commitment in the Programme for Government. This news is a huge slap in the face to parents who bought those lies.

"I've called on the Government to clarify its position immediately, to stop playing games, and to commit to a fair, transparent, and universal reduction in college fees. Anything less is a betrayal of students and their families," Deputy Whitmore concluded.

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has launched a scathing attack on the government's decision to impose a €1,000 hike in third-level student fees, calling it a cruel and disgraceful blow to students and families already overwhelmed by the relentless cost-of-living crisis. Deputy Brady said this latest

move by the government was a shocking betrayal of young people and a clear signal that Fianna Fail, Fine Gael are completely out of touch with the everyday struggles of working families across Wicklow.

"The government's decision to increase student fees by €1,000 is absolutely scandalous. At a time when families are facing unprecedented financial pressure - with skyrocketing grocery bills, soaring fuel costs, and unaffordable energy prices - this fee hike is not just unacceptable, it's shameful.

"This is a deliberate and deeply unfair attack on students and families who are already stretched beyond their limits. Parents and students are desperately trying to make ends meet, and now they're being punished further just for trying to pursue an education.

"It is beyond belief that, instead of providing support, this government has chosen to add to the burden. This is not just tone-deaf - it is heartless policymaking that will force many young people to abandon or delay their education altogether. The reality is that for many families, this hike will be the final straw. I've spoken to parents across Wicklow who are now forced to make impossible choices

about which of their children they can afford to send to college. That is the brutal cost of this government's neglect. It is not acceptable in any civilised society, and it is certainly not acceptable in a country that claims to value education.

"Let's be clear - this is not happening in isolation. This decision comes just weeks after the government moved to erode protections for student renters, which will inevitably lead to higher rents and more pressure on students. Together, these policies amount to a coordinated assault on young people's right to education and housing. Time and time again, this government has proven that it is willing to sacrifice the future of our young people to balance the books or protect the wealthy and well-connected. It has consistently turned its back on students, renters, and struggling families - all while pretending to care.

"Sinn Féin takes a different approach. We believe in investing in our young people. We believe that education should be a right, not a privilege for those who can afford it. That's why Sinn Féin is demanding a cost-of-living rescue package in September that will cut student fees by €1,500 as a first step toward abolishing them

altogether. We have a clear plan to support students, reduce financial pressures on families, and build a fairer and more equal education system.

"The Ireland that Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael are building is one where only the wealthy can afford to send their children to college. Sinn Féin rejects that vision. We are fighting for an Ireland where everyone - regardless of background - has a genuine chance to succeed. Our young people are the future of this country. They deserve a government that backs them, supports them, and helps them thrive. Sinn Féin will not stand by while their futures are mortgaged to pay for the failures of those in power. We will demand better - and we will deliver better."

Tánaiste Simon Harris, appears to be in direct conflict with the Minister for Higher Education, James Lawless, saying "No decision has been made to return student contribution fees to €3,000 for a full college year. Any supports for students, parents and in general will have to be part of the regular Budget package, which will help people with the cost of living.

"Our record is clear: In the last three budgets, when I was Minister for Further and Higher Education and more recently when Minister Patrick O'Donovan held the portfolio, student fees were reduced by €1,000. This

was a tangible measure for young people that helped to reduce the cost of their education and was also a major support for their families. To put this in context, for every €1 increase in social welfare rates, the cost is approximately €75 - €80 million. A €1,000 reduction in the student contribution fee costs €99 million. These are the choices that the Government will need to make as part of the Budget and ultimately it is my understanding that no decisions have been made in relation to this.

"Many students will pay their fees in installments as opposed to one lump sum in September so the Government can absolutely consider reducing costs and fees in the new college year as part of the regular budget. In fact, I understand that the Minister will publish an options paper, which will identify costs and potential impacts of various policy options aimed at reducing the cost of higher education. This paper will inform decision-making ahead of Budget 2026.

"We will not row back on commitments made by the party during the last election and by this Government. We must build on the progress made in recent years and I will be arguing strongly that the commitments in the Programme for Government - including the continued reduction in the student contribution fee - is delivered."



ReWild Wicklow volunteers building exclosures in the Glenmacnass Valley.

ReWild Wicklow receive €20,000 grant for native woodland project

Local environmental charity ReWild Wicklow has been awarded €20,000 from the Heritage Council Community Grant Scheme towards a project to protect and increase native woodland across Wicklow.

Every year the Heritage Council supports local community groups to conserve and celebrate Ireland's built, cultural, and natural heritage with this scheme and, in 2025, €1.9 million has been awarded to 132 projects across the country. ReWild Wicklow's project is one of the larger initiatives supported and the group plan to use the funding to purchase materials for deer hunting high seats, deer exclosures and tree planting in mesh cages.

"We are very grateful to the Heritage Council for supporting our project," said chairperson Danny Alvey. "We had our first volunteer day as part of this project over the weekend with twenty volunteers building four deer exclosures across two sites along the Glenmacnass River right in the

heart of the Wicklow Mountains. We'll return in winter then to plant these exclosures up with lots of native trees."

"We've found this technique of planting trees in small and medium sized clusters far more beneficial for improving biodiversity on these sites across Wicklow. The exclusion of deer and other grazers not only let the trees grow completely undisturbed but habitat is also created for all the ground flora, insects and small birds and animals. We could see this when we visited one of our first exclosures built and planted up in Glenmacnass back in March. The young trees were flying and wildflowers and birch seedlings were all over the ground with grasshoppers, caterpillars and all sorts of insects crawling

between them."

Over the next few months the group plans to build at least 25 more of these exclosures across sites from the east coast all the way up to the mountains. They will also be building specialist deer hunting high seats along woodland edges to support better local deer management as the group believes deer numbers in Wicklow are totally unsustainable and if not reduced then none of the local native woodlands stand a chance of regenerating. They are also looking for new landowners, particularly those in and around the Wicklow Mountains National Park, to partner with and accept new volunteers for these activities all year round. Visit their website rewildwicklow.ie to find out more.

Two climate action projects from partners in Wicklow showcase at national climate conference

Community-led climate action rooted in inclusion, participation and flexibility offers a powerful model for delivering a fairer climate transition, according to new national research published by the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment and Pobal.

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

EPA LICENCED FACILITY • ALL TRUCKS CARRY WASTE PERMITS

Recycled:

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

Also available:

- Granite • Pebble • Sand



Tel: 01 286 8119 Mobile: 087 664 1866
www.marrakeshltd.com

The independent research, presented at a national climate conference in Dublin, evaluated 19 projects funded under the Community Climate Action Programme (Strand 2) and outlines how these models can be scaled and replicated across the country. It found that successful projects shared key features: early and sustained community engagement, intentional inclusivity of marginalised groups, flexible and responsive design, and a commitment to learning by doing.

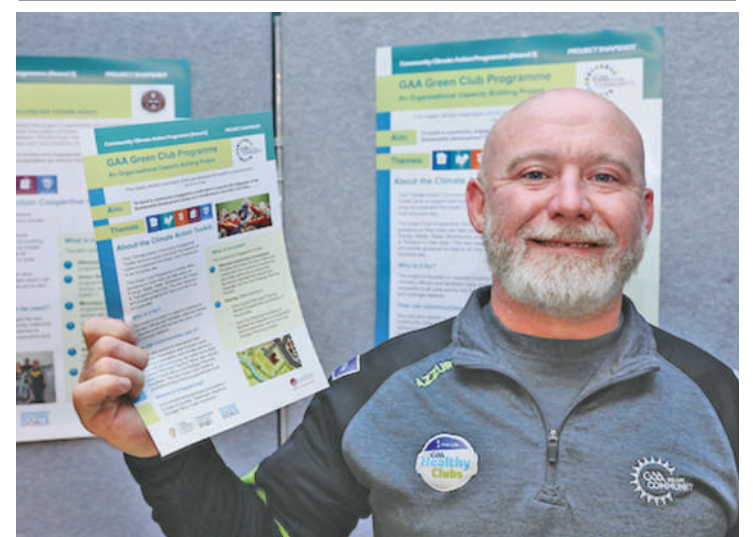
The research notes the value in longer-term funding which can support the stability and sustainability of climate initiatives, while also building and maintaining community trust.

Two projects with partner organisations based in Wicklow showcased at the event:

• Our Shared Plate - Neighbourhood Network (Street Feast) + nine neighbourhoods across Laois, Longford and Kildare in partnership with Kildare County Council, Laois County Council and Longford County Council - a project to bring neighbours together in a shared commitment to build climate resilience and Aim: food security at community



Claire Williams Our Shared Plate Neighbourhood Network.



Jimmy D'Arcy, GAA Green Club Programme.

level and create a greener, more resilient future.

• GAA Green Club Programme - An organisational Capacity Building Project - Gaelic Athletic Association (Nationwide), Camogie Association of Ireland, LGFA, Country & City Management Assoc., Irish Water, LA Waters Programme, National Bio-

diversity Data Centre, NTA, Regional Waste Authorities, SEAI and the Climate Action Regional Offices - a project to build a community engagement model which supports the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Action into GAA Club Plans.

As part of the programme, each project cre-

ated tools, resources and approaches to assist their communities to take meaningful action on climate change. The expansion of good practice was also examined, with the analysis highlighting that continuous and flexible funding, as well as strong local leadership, play an important role in maintaining momentum.



BE FREE WITH BIFE

- ✓ FREE TUITION FEES
- ✓ FREE COURSE MATERIALS
- ✓ NO CAO POINTS

Flat Acceptance Fee of €50 and Registration Fee of €150 will apply to all courses

BRAY INSTITUTE OF FURTHER EDUCATION

Dedicated • Professional • Passionate

BUS PICK-UPS

Throughout the college year from
Gorey, Arklow, Wicklow and
Rathnew

New Tertiary Bachelors' Degrees available at BIFE for 2025/2026 academic year

The following Tertiary Bachelors' Degrees are available at BIFE for the first time this September:
Entry is *not* based on points, and there are no tuition fees.

- Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Immersive Media Production
- Bachelor of Business (Hons) in Business and Psychology

Both commencing in Bray Institute of Further Education in September

ART

- KA Art Portfolio Preparation
- KB Art, Craft & Design
- KC Fine Art Practice
- KE Creative Craft

DESIGN

- DA Graphic Design
- DD Architecture Design & Technology
- DN Jewellery Making & Woodcraft
- DI Furniture Design & Carpentry/Joinery
- DC Fashion & Textiles

MUSIC

- MI DJ Techniques & Music Production
- MJ Music Production
- MK Music Performance
- MF Sound Engineering

COMPUTING

- NA Computer Software Developemt with AI
- NB Computer Science
- NC Computer Networks and Cyber Security

SPORT

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

ANIMAL CARE

- HA Animal Care
- HI Animal Care & Management Pre-University
- HJ Animal Science Industry
- HX Equine Studies

SOCIAL STUDIES & CHILDCARE

- OA Special Needs Assistant (Primary & Post-Primary)
- HD Early Learning & Care / Childcare
- HE Social Studies & Community Care

HAIR, BEAUTY & WELLNESS

- FJ Professional Make Up & Hairstyling
- FF Hairdressing - Junior Stylist
- FG Hairdressing - Senior Stylist
- FH Barbering
- FD Nail Technician & Salon Administration

SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

- HS Forensic Science - Pre-University
- HK Science - Pre-University
- HZ Food Science with Dietetics - Pre-University
- JF Pharmacy Retail Assistant
- JJ Pharmacy Technician
- HU Applied Ecology and Biodiversity Studies
- DK Horticulture & Garden Design
- HV Engineering Pre-University

BUSINESS

- JA Business Management & Administration
- JC Business Management - Advanced Certificate
- JD Accounting Technician
- LD Business Tourism Advanced Certificate
- SD Legal Administration Pre-University Law
- SF Medical Administration
- SE IT & Office Administration
- JT Digital Marketing and Entrepreneurship
- EE Security & Pre-Garda
- JP B.Bus (Hons) Business & Psychology

HOSPITALITY & TOURISM

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

ADULT LEAVING CERT

- RB Adult Leaving Certificate

HEALTH

- HB Nursing and Midwifery Studies - Pre-University
- HH Healthcare Assistant
- HP Occupational Therapy Assistant
- JK Emergency Care Studies (Pre-paramedic, Fire & Ambulance)
- HL Psychology in the Community (Advanced)

FILM & COMPUTER GAMING

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

ACTING & DANCE

- PB Acting for Stage & Screen Advanced
- PE Dance Technique, Performance and Choreography - Advanced

ENGLISH LANGUAGE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- XA English Language and General Studies

APPRENTICESHIPS

- JG Accounting Technician Apprenticeship

'€4.5m increase for Council to drive better services and infrastructure'

Local Property Tax Reform Unlocks €42 Million Boost for Councils Nationwide **Fianna Fail Senator for Wicklow, Pat Casey, has welcomed a major funding boost for Wicklow County Council under the Government's Local Property Tax (LPT) reform.**

From 2026, Wicklow County Council will benefit from an additional €4.46 million each year thanks to changes in how LPT funds are distributed. This will give the council greater flexibility to invest in vital local services, infrastructure, and community projects.

"This is a huge win for Wicklow," said Senator Pat Casey. "It's about putting money

back into communities so they can deliver the projects and improvements people want to see."

The €4.46 million increase for County Wicklow forms part of a national €42 million rise in LPT baselines, bringing total allocations for local authorities to €744 million next year. With this extra funding, Wicklow

County Council will be better equipped to improve roads, invest in local housing, enhance urban renewal programmes, and revitalise derelict areas," Senator Pat Casey added.

"This also recognises the reality that counties like Wicklow, where the population is growing rapidly, need more resources to match that growth. As County Wicklow becomes an increasingly important regional hub, it's vital that local infrastructure and amenities reflect that."

The reforms mean every local authority

will now receive an increased minimum ('baseline') allocation, ensuring councils have the resources to deliver day-to-day services and regeneration projects in their communities. The LPT baseline will have increased by more than 33% over three years by 2026.

"People paying the local property tax deserve to see their contributions at work locally," concluded Senator Pat Casey. "These changes guarantee that more of this revenue is invested directly back into the areas it comes from, supporting stronger, more vibrant communities."



Senator Pat Casey.

'Delay in Greystones Garda Station works must be addressed urgently'

Sinn Féin TD for Wicklow, John Brady, has expressed serious concern over the ongoing delays on commencing essential upgrade works at Greystones Garda Station, delays which he says are completely unacceptable and deeply frustrating for both Gardai and the local community.

Speaking on the issue, Deputy Brady said: "It is absolutely disgraceful that despite the clear and long-standing need for these works which were identified back as far as 2006, none of the promised internal refurbishment has yet to even begin. The condition of the station is not fit for purpose and has been flagged repeatedly

by staff and members of the public alike."

Deputy Brady noted that in the run-up to the recent General Election, An Tánaiste Simon Harris made high-profile announcements regarding the €1.5 million investment the government was to implement in carrying out works in Garda stations across Wicklow, including

Greystones. At the time, it was claimed that works in Greystones Garda Station would be completed in early 2025.

"We were assured that badly needed internal upgrades would be carried out promptly and completed by now, yet here we are, halfway through the year and the OPW has still not commenced these

works. It is simply not good enough. These essential upgrades were to include a female toilet, space reconfiguration and public access works and promised to be finished by the 31st of March this year. Here we are in June and they still have not started. It is simply unacceptable that in this day and age, a Garda Station would not have wheelchair access," said Deputy Brady.

The Sinn Féin TD also highlighted a critical missed opportunity to

expand the station into the adjoining Coast Guard building, but due to government inaction in building the new Coast Guard station at the Marina, this has fallen to the wayside and the Garda Station is no longer expanding.

"That building was meant to allow the station to expand and modernise, but because the Government dragged its heels, the opportunity was lost. Development of the Coast Guard station has stalled considerably, and Gardai were forced to continue

operating out of a cramped and outdated building."

This lack of space, Brady said, has had real consequences for policing in the town.

"The limited size of the current station means there has been no capacity to increase Garda numbers or to expand operations. This impacts not just working conditions for the Gardai, but the level of service they can provide to the community."

Deputy Brady con-

firmed he has met directly with the local Garda Superintendent to discuss the urgent need for the upgrades, and that he has formally written to both the Minister for Justice and the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, seeking immediate clarity and a firm timeline for when the OPW will finally carry out the works.

"I have made it clear to both Ministers that this delay is unacceptable. The current condition of the station is placing unnes-

sary strain on Garda staff and is failing the people of Greystones. It is time for the Government to stop the empty promises and deliver on their commitments," he said.

Brady concluded: "I will continue to apply pressure at every level to ensure these essential works are carried out without any further delay. Greystones deserves a Garda station that is fit for purpose, properly resourced, and capable of meeting the needs of the fast-growing community."

Marina Village EV chargers restored



Cllr Stephen Stokes at Marina Village.

The electric vehicle chargers in the Marina Village, Greystones have been restored by Wicklow County Council. Cllr Stephen Stokes has thanked Merlin Ovington and the Environment Section for their leadership on the matter.

Cllr Stokes stated: "There was a bizarre situation where the developer and their management company were pointing at each other as the responsible party. The result was that the EV chargers went out of operation for several months. This fresh development by Wicklow County Council ensures improved access to essential EV infrastructure for residents, commuters, and visitors alike."

Concerned residents contacted Cllr Stephen Stokes about the matter. Wicklow County Council has now taken over the service. Wicklow County Council has also engaged a contractor to service the units and manage the mobile app used for connecting to the charger and to process payments. Cllr Stokes added: "Thankfully Wicklow County Council intervened in the Mexican standoff. Once they got the approval to take charge of the service,

the next step was to recalibrate the machines. This outcome is the result of persistent effort, and I want to thank everyone involved. It's encouraging to see Greystones residents now able to benefit from this much-needed facility."

Because the electric chargers were out of operation for several months, they needed special recalibration to restore their functionality. This process took several weeks to arrange. There are a few other EV chargers under Wicklow County Council control such as those at Shoreline, Greystones which operate under a similar agreement. Cllr Stephen Stokes concluded: "With Wicklow County Council stepping in to oversee these units, we can ensure greater reliability and oversight going forward. This is a positive move that supports our environmental goals."

Codling Wind Park hosts engineering workshop

The Engineering Manager for Codling Wind Park, Ed Sly, recently hosted a workshop showcasing the engineering and technical challenges involved in offshore construction.

A group of 40 employees, consisting of mostly planners and engineers from the council attended the workshop which took place at the WCC offices in Wicklow Town. Codling Wind Park says it is looking forward to providing more of these engineering focused briefings as the project progresses.

Mr Sly, who holds a degree in civil and coastal engineering from the University of Plymouth, has played a key role in the development of the Codling project over the last four years. In that time, the project has secured an ORESS contract, submitted its planning application and completed multiple engineering design and work scopes.

During the workshop he provided an overview of some of the technical challenges the project has faced covering everything from turbine foundations to the offshore substation to onshore

works at Poolbeg where the power cables will come ashore and connect to the national grid.

Mr Sly said he was delighted to present the workshop and said the Codling team is looking forward to engaging with other groups and clubs across Wicklow.

"Recently we launched an engagement campaign which is open to local community groups, clubs, local authorities, societies or schools who would like to learn more about Ireland's largest Phase 1 offshore wind project and the benefits it will bring to Ireland and to local communities."

A key part of the project is of course the establishment of a €200m Community Benefit Fund which will support local community groups over a twenty-year period. The project is urging community groups to consider what projects or initiatives they would like to benefit from

the fund.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr. Melanie Corrigan said: "Wicklow County Council is committed to staff learning and development. Part of this process includes holding Continuous Professional Development (CPD) events, which are of enormous value in supporting staff development."

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Emer O'Gorman said: "Wicklow County Council is currently in the process of becoming a CPD accredited Employer with Engineers Ireland. The vision of CPD is to make Wicklow County Council a leading provider of engineering services to the people of Wicklow in a manner consistent with Council values that include sustainability, climate action, collaboration, being age friendly, and offering a quality, customer focused service."



Mark Costello (Climate Change Coordinator, WCC), Pamela McCann (Codling Windpark Communications Project Manager), Helen Purcell (A-DOS, WCC), Pat Sammon (External Affairs Manager, Codling Wind Park), Joanne O'Dowd (HR Officer, WCC) and Ed Sly (Engineering Manager, Codling Windpark).

Whitmore presses Govt over continued rail neglect in Wicklow

‘Wicklow deserves better than broken promises and substandard service’

Speaking in the Dáil last week, Social Democrats TD for Wicklow, Jennifer Whitmore, has criticised the Government's ongoing failure to deliver meaningful rail improvements for Wicklow.

“The extension of the battery electric DART to Wicklow has been promised repeatedly by Ministers. We were told it would be 2025. Then it became 2026. Now we're being told 2029. Every year the goalposts move, and every year Wicklow commuters are left further behind,” Deputy Whitmore explained.

“Wicklow's rail service is beyond bad. Every other route is seeing improvements, except ours. It is completely unacceptable. People in Wicklow deserve a proper, reliable, and modern rail service.”

“Wicklow Town currently has just six trains a day to Dublin, despite a rapidly growing population and a large commuting workforce. The Government is failing to

meet the needs of our community. “I've asked the Minister to urgently review this situation and to ensure that Wicklow is no longer treated as an afterthought when it comes to transport investment. There needs to be a shift in how we plan for public transport, the current system is not working,” Deputy Whitmore concluded.

“At the same time, we



John, Olena, Mark and David Sytnyk at the BBQ Party at Coolnagreina, Greystones, to celebrate Ukrainian and Irish friendship.

Brady demands earlier rollout of delayed Glendalough-Bray bus

Sinn Féin TD John Brady, has strongly criticised the continued delays in launching the long-awaited Glendalough to Bray bus service, and is calling on the National Transport Authority (NTA) to bring the rollout forward significantly from the currently proposed timeline of late September or early October.

Deputy Brady said the repeated postponements are “completely unacceptable and have left local communities frustrated and underserved”.

“This service was first announced in October of last year, and since then, we've seen delay after delay. It was due to be in place much earlier in 2025, and

now the NTA is saying it will not be operational until the end of September or even October. That simply isn't good enough. People across Glendalough, Laragh, Annamoe, Roundwood have waited long enough for a regular and reliable public transport option. This service is vital and must be rolled out as early as possible.

“This is about providing a real and reliable seven-day-a-week public transport service that connects rural communities to Bray, where people can access not only local services but also make onward journeys via the regional and DART rail services at Bray (Daly) Station. That level of connectivity can be transformative for

people who currently have few or no public transport options.

“It will offer an essential transport link for commuters, families, and individuals needing to access employment, healthcare, retail, and other key services in Bray and beyond.”

The new service will also feature a modern and integrated approach to public transport, including access to the TFI Go app for real-time journey planning, Leap Card payment options, and the acceptance of Free

Travel Passes.

“This isn't just a bus route - it's a vital public transport link that will provide modern, convenient, and affordable travel options for people living in areas that have long been overlooked. It is essential that the NTA treats this with the urgency it deserves. I am continuing to engage directly with the NTA to put pressure on them to bring forward the launch date. We need to see this service operational before the proposed late-September date. There is no valid reason for yet

another delay.”

Brady said delivering the service in time for the end of the summer would allow people to begin using it at the start of the new term and work cycle, giving it the best chance of being successful and well utilised from the outset.

“We have waited long enough. Rural communities have a right to accessible, connected transport. The NTA must stop dragging its heels and get this essential service up and running without any further delay.”

KING KOIL Sealy ODEAREST REST ASSURED kaymed RESPA Silentnight

Comfort
SINCE 1981
BED OUTLET

All the
LEADING BRANDS
at
OUTLET PRICES...

Deposit secures for 8 weeks
w: bedoutlet.ie

Tallaght Outlet
phone: 01-4940200

Opening Times

Mon - Sat (10.00am - 5.00pm)

Sun & Bank Holidays - Closed

Unit B7, South City Business Pk, Tallaght, D24



Ballybrack Outlet
phone: 01-2720788

Opening Times

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

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

Church Road, Ballybrack, Co. Dublin



Three Wicklow RNLI crew members receive charity's Letter of Thanks

Three Wicklow RNLI volunteer crew members have received official Letters of Thanks from RNLI Chief Executive Peter Sparkes following their actions which resulted in five lives being saved.

Peter Sparkes visited Wicklow RNLI Lifeboat Station last Friday 20th June. As well as meeting all the volunteer members from both the afloat crew and fundraising team, he presented Alan Goucher, Peter Byrne and John Stapleton with a letter of thanks for their actions on the 25th June 2023.

On that day, a 25ft yacht with five people onboard began to sink. While the weather had been good, thunderstorms developed in the area. Following the request to launch from the Irish Coast Guard, the

inshore lifeboat was put to sea helmed by Alan and with Peter and John onboard.

Once on scene, the crew observed the yacht almost fully submerged with all five casualties in the water, one of which was stuck and in danger of being dragged under water. Alan instructed Peter to enter the water and free the casualty while Alan and John transferred the four other casualties onto the lifeboat.

In worsening conditions, Peter managed to cut the casualty free from the ropes they were caught in

and brought them onto the lifeboat where they were then brought safely ashore to be checked over by the emergency services.

Speaking after the presentation, Tommy Dover, Wicklow RNLI Lifeboat Press Officer said: "It is testament to the ongoing training that this challenging rescue had such a positive outcome. We here in Wicklow RNLI extend our heartfelt congratulations to our fellow volunteer and thank Peter Sparkes for presenting these letters to the crew members."



The three crewmembers receiving their letter of thanks. Photo Credit: RNLI/Tommy Dover.

Carnew Nursing Home named finalist in Re-turn's National 'Small Town, Big Difference' Campaign

Re-turn, the operator of Ireland's Deposit Return Scheme (DRS), has announced that Carnew Nursing Home, based in county Wicklow, has been named as a finalist in the 'Small Town, Big Difference'. The initiative invited community groups, clubs and schools across the country to share inspiring stories of how they are making a big difference in their local area through the DRS.

Carnew Nursing Home has received a donation of €2,000 from Re-turn to support its Residents Fund - a fund for all residents, especially those without family, for essential items and trips. Local commu-

nity groups were asked to share their story to the Re-turn.ie/Heroes webpage, highlighting how they are making a difference through DRS. In total, Re-turn received over 340 incredible entries from

across Ireland. From these entries, ten outstanding finalists have been selected - and now, a panel of judges, including broadcaster Jennifer Zamparelli and social media stars Tadhg and Derry Fleming,

will choose five winners.

These winners will go on to feature in a national advertising campaign - appearing on billboards, bus stops and radio ads - celebrating the big difference that the smallest of

donations can make.

Over the last year, over 3,400 local community groups have made a difference by raising funds through the DRS by asking people to donate their deposits from plastic bot-

tles and cans to good causes.

Commenting on the response to the Small Town, Big Difference campaign, Ciaran Foley, CEO of Re-turn, said, "We were thrilled to receive hundreds of inspiring stories from across the country, showing how innovative and passionate local groups are when they rally

behind a shared goal. Each entry brought to life the incredible impact that turning deposits into donations can have. It's a powerful reminder of why it is important not to discard plastic bottles and cans - especially when there's an orange bin nearby. Instead, they can be transformed into real value for communities like Carnew. We are

delighted to support them with a €2,000 donation and hope it brings excitement to residents."

Re-turn has a dedicated community page on its website where local groups can sign up to Re-turn via the email communities@re-turn.ie and avail of a range of resources for their local club or group.

Application made for new Coast Guard Station in Greystones

Cllr Stephen Stokes has welcomed the submission of a pre-validation planning application for a new, purpose-built Coast Guard Station at Greystones Harbour. It has been submitted by The Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland. It marks a major step forward for local emergency response infrastructure.

The long-awaited development has been on the agenda for over 15 years and could provide vital, modern facilities to support lifesaving rescue operations along the Wicklow coastline.

The proposed facility would consist of a single-storey boathouse and vehicle store with a flat roof, alongside a single-storey accommodation block with a mono-pitch roof. The building will cover a combined floor area of 257 square metres, with a maximum roof height of 7.8 metres above the adjacent public space. Cllr Stokes stated: "This is a project that I have campaigned for since the days of Greystones Town Council. It is a positive development to see it progress to the planning stage. However there is a bit to go, so hopefully this will be a new dawn, not another false dawn. Greystones is home to a dedicated Coast Guard unit, and it is simply unacceptable that they've had to operate for so long without appropriate facilities. This new station could provide an essential boost to the infrastructure that they need to save lives."

The new development would enable faster and more effective emergency responses by providing secure, weatherproof storage for rescue vehicles and boats, along with essential crew facilities. It is expected to greatly enhance the operational capacity of the local Coast Guard team, which plays a critical role in responding to marine incidents and coastal emergencies. Cllr Stokes added: "We are indebted to all of our emergency services, including the Coast Guard. This development is about public safety. Every minute counts in an emergency, and this station will make a real difference when it matters most. The people of Greystones deserve this investment, and our Coast Guard team deserve our full support."

The pre-validation planning application has now been submitted. Submissions can be made to Wicklow County Council until July 31st, 2025.



Cllr Stephen Stokes at the South Beach archway in Greystones.



Senator Aubrey McCarthy, founder of Tiglin, with Rachel Harper and Mexican Ambassador Carolina Zaragoz at the BBQ to celebrate Irish and Ukrainian friendship at Coolnagreina, Greystones.

Timmins urges fast rollout of Social housing monitoring targets

Wicklow Fine Gael TD Edward Timmins has welcomed the introduction of social housing monitoring targets, a proposal brought to cabinet last week.

Speaking from Leinster House Deputy Timmins announced: "I welcome the proposal brought to Cabinet regarding monitoring targets for social housing. This is something I proposed in the Dail several months ago. I proposed that total housing targets should be set and not just social and that these targets be monitored on a quarterly basis by the Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Deputy John Cummins."

Deputy Timmins continued: "It's important that these guidelines are rolled out to the County Councils as soon as possible to allow them to amend their Council Development and Local Area Plans. Due of the delay, I have seen a planning application for 335 houses in Blessington County Wicklow, supported by the council and all elected members, being refused by an Bord

Pleanala because the Local Area Plan (LAP) was not up-to-date with new housing targets."

No guidance has been issued at this stage on headroom. From my experience of Development Plans over the last twenty years, the previous direction from the Office of the Planning Regulator was zero percentage headroom which was very misguided. It is imperative that there is a considerable percentage headroom because in practice many sites will not be developed for various reasons. All landowners are not 'ready to go developers' and the real world site development often has many obstacles including cost and may lead to planning refusals. I would suggest headroom of the order of 70%."

Deputy Timmins noted: "From a national point of view Councils must be closely involved in the delivery of housing. Delivery must be micro-



Edward Timmins TD.

managed. These county targets must be drilled down further with monthly figures produced by all local authorities of actuals versus targets and explanations given. This is the only way to deliver large numbers of houses. The Minister must then meet the CEOs of the Councils and the Heads of Play on a quarterly basis. This method is exactly the way a business would aim to

achieve its target and something I'm acutely aware of as a business person."

Regarding tiered zoning, this refers to lower tiers with less services. But in many current plans, it is tiered even when they both have access to services. So there should be no tiered zoning in these cases as if Tier One is not developed, it stops Tier Two from being developed."

Deputy Timmins concluded: "As a newly elected Dail Deputy I'm very pleased that the monitoring targets for social housing that I proposed in the Dail several months ago has been brought to Cabinet. I applaud Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Deputy John Cummins for taking my proposal on board so promptly. This marks a significant achievement that will accelerate much needed progress."

'New simplified process will accelerate and expand social housing delivery'

Fianna Fáil Senator Pat Casey, has welcomed the introduction of a single stage approval process for all social housing projects, announced by Minister for Housing, James Browne TD.

The introduction of this simplified process, he says, is a key commitment in the Programme for Government and will replace the old four step approval process by local authorities.

Senator Casey has said the new simplified and standardised process will help unlock and increase the delivery of social housing in County Wicklow.

"This is a very important change to unlock the true potential of social housing in our local authorities. We want to ensure to remove barriers where there are any to enable the building of social housing in every community across the country.

Casey added: "County Wicklow will benefit greatly from this. Housing is the biggest issue our country faces, and I see that in my own constituency. We must pull every lever at our disposal to ensure we build enough homes for people locally.

To ensure that social housing projects offer value for money, and to promote greater use of Modern Methods of Construction, Minister James Browne will also be mandating the use of a range of specific design layouts and specifications for all new build social housing projects being developed by local authorities and approved housing bodies.



Senator Pat Casey.

"Today's changes will include a range of benefits such as standardising design in social housing projects, streamlining approvals, and improving cost control for local authorities and the Exchequer. They also enhance efficiency in tendering and project delivery by giving contractors clearer requirements, while supporting greater use of Modern Methods of Construction in line with government goals.

Senator Casey stated that young people in Wicklow want to be in a position where they can buy their own their own home, and by removing barriers to delivery and supply such as the four-stage approval process for local authorities is an essential move to unclog the system.

He said: "This now simplified process will facilitate faster delivery of social homes and enable more homes to be built by local authorities. It lowers costs and ensures greater value for the taxpayer, and will give better planning and coordination guidance for builders, designers and our local councils."

Senator Casey concluded by stating how pleased he is at the speed of delivery, with the new simplified process to become operational imminently.

"I am pleased to hear that this step change in how we deliver social housing will be introduced in Q3 of this year. That means any new social housing project proposals being developed will be under these new arrangements.

He concluded: "In Fianna Fail we are committed to taking the key steps towards faster, more efficient homebuilding, and this standardised and simplified process for local authorities will enable just that."



President of the GAA Jarlath Burns, Chairman of Wicklow GAA Damien Byrne, Chairman of Laragh GAA Seamus Nolan, U10 team players Rua Cullen and Lucy Smyth unveil a plaque at the official opening of the Laragh GAA Clubhouse.

Wicklow one of top performing counties in social housing delivery, new figures reveal

Tánaiste Simon Harris TD has welcomed new figures showing County Wicklow as one of the top-performing counties in delivering new social housing, with the county achieving 142% of its overall target between 2022 and 2024.

The figures show Wicklow delivered 1,206 new social homes against a target of 847 significantly outperforming the national average.

This places Wicklow among the top local authorities in Ireland for housing delivery, alongside Laois and Meath.

Speaking about the figures, Tánaiste Harris said: "I am delighted to see this figures showing what can be done. I am particularly proud that this is happening in my home county among others too. We are bucking the trend here in Wicklow and I hope we can continue to build on this progress. We've exceeded targets, 142% of the overall new-build target, this is



Tánaiste Simon Harris.

exceptional but let's be honest, this is what is needed in an emergency.

"My focus in Government on housing is relentless. There is no doubt that more must be done, day

in and day out. Let's be clear: while this is progress, we are nowhere near where we need to be. Housing is an emergency and I am dogged in my determination to ensure more homes are built at pace. It can't just be an emergency for the Department of Housing or a single Minister. Every part of government, and every local authority, has to pull together here.

"Some local authorities are doing very well, and Wicklow is a prime example of what can be achieved. But others need to up their game. Fine Gael in Government is delivering, but we have a lot more to do. We need to see every form of housing, including own-build, move quicker."

<div data-bbox="1135 1928 1212 2050" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="1262 1960 1555 2023" data-label="Text"> <p>An Roinn Cosanta Department of Defence</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1194 2104 1485 2134" data-label="Text"> <p>ARMY RIFLE RANGES</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1251 2178 1426 2213" data-label="Text"> <p>WARNING</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1126 2224 1555 2417" data-label="Text"> <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</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1113 2428 1565 2618" data-label="Text"> <p>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> </div>	<div data-bbox="1616 1928 1692 2050" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="1742 1960 2035 2023" data-label="Text"> <p>An Roinn Cosanta Department of Defence</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1627 2104 2022 2134" data-label="Text"> <p>RAONTA RAIDHFILÍ AN AIRM</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1699 2159 1950 2197" data-label="Text"> <p>FOLÁIREAMH</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1607 2202 2042 2482" data-label="Text"> <p>Má bhíonn tú ag siúl faoin tuath, ná siúil 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</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1600 2487 2052 2626" data-label="Text"> <p>Is ionann BRATACHA DEARGA agus BEO-LÁMHACH Bí ag faire do na comharthaí foláirimh AGUS BÍ AR d'AIRDEALL!</p> </div>
--	---

New heritage plan launched for Wicklow

Wicklow County Council was pleased to host a reception on Wednesday 2nd July to celebrate the launch of the County Wicklow Heritage Plan for 2025-2030. The event took place at Clermont House and was attended by members of the Wicklow Heritage Forum, elected representatives, and stakeholders from Wicklow ICAN (Irish Community Archive Network).



Holly Lewis and Wicklow County Council Heritage Officer Deirdre Burns.

This Plan is the fourth for County Wicklow and was developed by the Wicklow Heritage Forum before being adopted by Wicklow County Council earlier this year. The six key objectives of the Plan focus on; Protecting our heritage; Connecting people and places; Sharing and celebrating our heritage; Promoting collaboration and partnership; Building and sharing knowledge and Responding to climate change.

Cllr. Melanie Corrigan, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, officially launched the Plan, stating, "This new Heritage Plan for County Wicklow outlines an ambitious strategy for how Wicklow County Council will collaborate with others to protect and manage our heritage for the benefit of all in the coming five years, from 2025 to 2030. This Plan builds upon the significant achievements of previous Heritage Plans and sets new goals for the preservation of heritage."



(L to R) Heritage Officer Wicklow County Council Deirdre Burns, County Wicklow Heritage Forum chairman Cllr. John Snell, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Cllr. Melanie Corrigan, CE of Wicklow County Council Emer O'Gorman and Heritage Council Local Authority Liaison Officer Patricia Fallon.

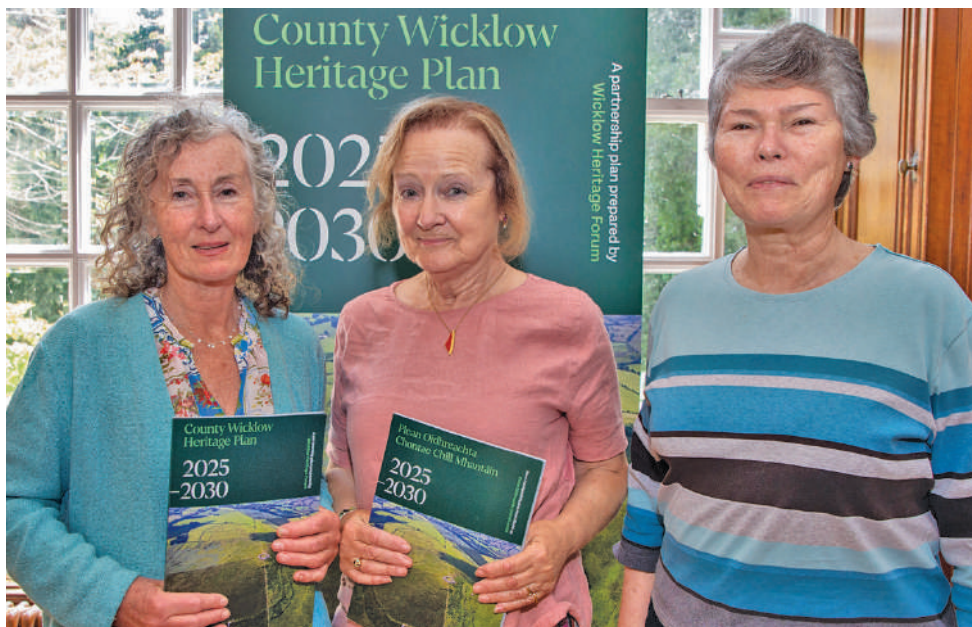
Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, remarked, "This Heritage Plan strongly aligns with Wicklow County Council's commitment to protecting, conserving, and promoting our heritage in all its forms, ensuring it continues to play a valuable role in our economic, social and cultural lives."

Cllr. John Snell, chairman of the Wicklow Heritage Forum, praised the dedication of Forum members for their hard work and continued commitment to implementing the Plan's actions. He highlighted several key successes from the previous Plan, including the Wicklow Barn Owl Project, the Wicklow ICAN Network, the Glendalough Community Excavations, the Decade of Centenaries Programme, digitisation efforts from the Wicklow Archives and Local Studies Libraries, the Wicklow Swift Project, the Wicklow Community Archaeology service and the Historic Graveyards recording initiatives.

Ms. Patricia Fallon, Local Authority Liaison Officer with The Heritage Council, commended Wicklow County Council for its commitment and leadership in preparing a fourth County Heritage Plan. She added, "The Heritage Council is dedicated to partnering with Wicklow County Council and other local authorities across Ireland to enhance heritage protection and ensure local heritage needs are adequately resourced. We have collaborated with Wicklow County Council for over 20 years through the Heritage Officer role, co-funding County Heritage Plan programs and supporting local heritage infrastructure. We look forward to continuing and expanding this partnership in the future."



Arklow Historian Jim Rees and Aisling Rees.



Bray Tidy Towns Cora Coleman, Medieval Bray Mary Hargaden and Medieval Bray Therese Hicks.



Peter Kelly and Jim Corley from the Blessington History Society.



County Wicklow Heritage Officer Deirdre Burns speaking at the launch

Timmins supports inaugural Heart and Stroke Oireachtas Group

Fine Gael TD Edward Timmins has participated in vital public health support at the inaugural Oireachtas Heart and Stroke group meeting on heart failure at Leinster House on 2nd July.

Deputy Timmins is backing a call for the estimated 4,177 people living with heart failure in Wicklow to receive greater access to cardiac rehabilitation, psychological support and help to ease financial hardship caused by the condition.

Members of the group, set up by the Irish Heart Foundation, heard from Patient Champions and heart failure patients Stephen Comerford and Teresa O'Hanlon, Professor Emer Joyce, Consultant Heart Function and Transplant Cardiologist at The Mater Hospital, Dr Eamonn O'Shea, GP, HSE/ICGP Integrated Care GP Clinical Lead

Cardiovascular with the Irish College of General Practitioners and the Foundation's Director of Advocacy and Patient Support, Chris Macey.

They spoke about Ireland's rapidly growing cardiac condition, a chronic disease that occurs when the heart muscle doesn't pump blood as well as it should, and the disabilities and challenges faced by the estimated 137,000 people living with heart failure in Ireland.

"The HSE has estimated that 30 per cent of heart failure patients are back in hospital within 90 days of discharge," said Chris Macey,

Director of Advocacy with the Irish Heart Foundation.

"Half of all admissions are due to poor self-care and are therefore largely preventable. Heart failure patients, along with others living with heart disease and stroke, need more help to address the psychological impact of their condition, financial hardship that can result and gain greater access to rehabilitation services.

"The purpose of this new group is to ensure that services and supports for people affected by cardiovascular disease are prioritised in Wicklow and across the country."



Dr Eamonn O'Shea, GP, HSE/ICGP Integrated Care GP Clinical Lead Cardiovascular with the Irish College of General Practitioners, Professor Emer Joyce, Consultant Heart Function and Transplant Cardiologist at The Mater Hospital, Emma Balmaine, CEO, Irish Heart Foundation and Chris Macey, Director of Advocacy and Patient Support at the Heart and Stroke Oireachtas Group meeting, set up by the Irish Heart Foundation. Pic Justin Farrelly.

Warning issued as Avian Flu currently circulating in seabirds

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza HPAI (H5N1) is currently circulating in wild birds, especially in breeding seabirds around Ireland. Over the last three weeks in particular, including following intensive surveillance by NPWS, and reports from others, there have been a number of cases of groups of dead wild sea birds washing up on shorelines in counties Kerry, Clare and Galway.

A number have been tested by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine, and gulls and Guillemot have so far been confirmed with HPAI; and many multiples of that are likely to have HPAI. In total, 25 wild birds have tested positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in

2025 (January-June). Avian Influenza, commonly known as bird flu, is a notifiable animal disease and is a highly contagious viral disease affecting the respiratory, digestive and/or nervous system of many species of birds. It can also pose a threat to people and other animals in certain circumstances,

but these types of infections are rare.

As advised by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine, (and the HSE also issued guidance):

- do not touch sick or dead wild birds;
- do not bring sick wild birds home;
- pets should be kept away from sick and dead wild

birds (dogs should be kept on a leash where sick or dead wild birds are present).

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine carries out year round avian influenza surveillance sampling. In areas where HPAI has already been confirmed, it may not be necessary to

collect further birds for sampling. The avian influenza virus is very contagious amongst birds and can survive for several weeks in the environment. The faeces of infected birds contains a high level of virus and so the area can remain infective irrespective of whether bird carcasses are removed from an area or not. If it is deemed appropriate for public amenity reasons to remove dead birds or to display signage, etc. e.g. on beaches or areas with

frequent human footfall, it is a matter for the Local Authority.

Over the past number of months, the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) has been undertaking intensive monitoring and surveillance with a nationwide network of regional staff, collecting information on seabirds from coastlines, key colonies and elsewhere across the island. The situation is being monitored intensively and any suspected cases reported to

the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine for testing. The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) has responsibly for avian influenza testing in Ireland. NPWS is already providing expert advice to DAFM in relation to HPAI and cases in wild birds.

NPWS urge members of the public to avoid coming into close contact with any dead/sick seabird.

DAFM requests that all sick/dead wild birds are

reported via the Avian Check app. While not all dead birds will be collected for testing, reporting is greatly appreciated and provides important information to support surveillance and risk assessment activities.

Detailed information of Avian Influenza is available on the DAFM and Gov.ie websites. This includes their most recent overview of the situation with regard to HPAI in Ireland - AHS - Current News.

Arklow public meeting on endometriosis 'impactful and powerful'

Sinn Féin TD Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin has described last Tuesday's public meeting at the Arklow Bay Hotel as "truly powerful". Attendees came together to discuss the Endometriosis Campaign spearheaded by Sinn Féin Senator Maria Mc Cormack, which has been making its way across the country.

Reflecting on the event, Deputy Ó Súilleabháin said, "It was one of the most impactful meetings I have ever attended. The courage shown by the

women present, who shared their personal and often painful experiences of living with endometriosis, was nothing short of inspiring. They recounted

stories of medical neglect and inadequate support - some young women left with no option but to undergo full hysterectomies, only to be sent

into chemical menopause. For many, the only response offered has been repeated surgeries.

"As a man, I was not fully aware of the extent of suffering caused by this condition. Hearing firsthand about the failure of our health system and the state to support these local women in Wicklow was

truly heartbreaking. Too often, women are dismissed - told their pain is imagined, accused of seeking attention or even drug-seeking - while in reality, their condition worsens and inflicts further damage to their bodies.

"This must change. The state has failed women's

healthcare far too often. Sinn Féin will not accept this; we are determined to be the voice for these women in Government. We will be bringing a motion before the Dáil on this issue, but our efforts will not end there. We want a health system that understands, diagnoses, and treats endometriosis

with the seriousness it deserves.

"We do not want to see women forced to leave Ireland to get the care they require. Instead, we must look to our international counterparts and ensure that Irish women receive a gold standard of care - not the inadequate, even barbaric, treatment they are

currently enduring.

"I would like to thank all the women who attended the meeting for educating us on their daily struggles and for their strength in sharing their stories. Their voices have made it clear: meaningful change is needed, and Sinn Féin is committed to achieving it."



Sandra and Robbert Power with Sean Byrne at the official opening of the Laragh GAA Clubhouse.

#SUMMERINBRAY

Soak up the sun & dive into fun in Bray...

FEATURING

BEACH YOGA · SEAFRONT FUNFAIR · LIVEWAVE · A BRAND-NEW MUSIC SERIES
 MOVIES BY THE BANDSTAND · BEACH BBQ FESTIVAL
 BRAVE MAEVE FAMILY FESTIVAL · CHROME CLASSIC CAR & BIKE SHOW
 BRAY AIR DISPLAY · FIREWORKS DISPLAY & MORE

bray.ie/summer2025/

Wicklow teen completes 100-mile cycle and raises over €3,000 for rare brain condition and local club

Wicklow teenager Ewan Lennox has successfully completed a 100-mile cycle from Holyhead Port to Wrexham, North Wales, raising more than €3,000 in support of two causes close to him: Corpal, a UK-based charity supporting individuals with Agenesis of the Corpus Callosum (ACC), and the Wicklow Blue Dolphins Special Olympics Club.



Ewan Lennox during his 100-mile cycle from Holyhead Port to Wrexham.

The 15-year-old undertook the challenge ahead of the Corpal Conference, which was held on Saturday, June 28. As part of the event, Ewan also spoke about his own experience of living with Partial Agenesis of the Corpus Callosum (PACC). The conference marked the first time he had met others with the same condition.

PACC is a rare neurological disorder in which the corpus callosum, the structure that connects the two hemispheres of the brain, is partially absent or underdeveloped. It can lead to a range of developmental and neurological challenges. Awareness of the condition remains limited, and efforts such as Ewan's are helping to shine a light on the experiences of those affected.

Through his GoFundMe campaign, Ewan's Cycle Challenge, he has raised over €3,000 to be shared between Corpal and the Wicklow Blue Dolphins, where he is an active participant. The Blue Dolphins provide sports and social opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities in the local area.

The cycle and conference took place in the lead-up to Corpal Colossal Disorder Day on Wednesday, July 2nd, a dedicated awareness day for corpus callosum disorders.



Ewan Lennox.

A Walk With Heart: The Beirne 3 Peaks Challenge returns to Wicklow this August in aid of Purple House Cancer Support

On Saturday, August 23rd, communities from across Ireland will unite in the Wicklow hills for the Beirne 3 Peaks Challenge - a unique, meaningful walk across Big Sugarloaf, Little Sugarloaf and Bray Head in memory of loved ones lost to cancer and in support of families affected by cancer every day.

Now in its fourth year, the event is more than just a charity hike - it's a heartfelt tribute, shaped by personal loss and the desire to create something positive.

"After losing my mum, dad, and sister, I felt the grief could either consume me - or move me," says Louise Mulgrew (née Beirne), founder of the challenge.

"I created the Beirne 3 Peaks to walk in their honour and to help others who know the pain of losing someone. It's a walk to remember, to connect, and to support

one another. Every step is a tribute."

What began as one family's way to cope with grief has now become a powerful annual event raising vital

funds for Purple House Cancer Support - a charity that provides free cancer support services to individuals and families across Ireland.

Louise's connection to Purple House runs even deeper. After volunteering with the charity, she is now a full-time staff member of the Purple

House team - a poignant and inspiring full-circle moment that underlines her commitment to the cause.

"To go from receiving support, to volunteering, to now working full time with Purple House - it feels like coming home," says Louise. "It's a privilege to give back to a

place that helped me through so much."

Participants of all ages and abilities are invited to take part in the challenge, with a focus not on speed or endurance, but on reflection, community, and purpose.

All proceeds go directly to Purple House Cancer Support, funding

essential services including counselling, transport to treatment, children's and family support, and more.

To register, go to:
register.enthouse.com/ps/event/TheBeirne3PeaksChallenge2025



Ardmore Rovers Managers recently held a charity match in aid of Open Door. The managers and coaches went head to head on the pitch in Ballywaltrim Recreational Park on Saturday June 7th. Through donations from members and families they raised the amazing sum of €2,867.79 and on Wednesday 18th of June, Graham Costelloe and Stewart Graham presented Open Door a cheque for that amount. These funds will go towards the various activities including physiotherapy, art, ceramics, woodwork and crafts for many adults with physical disabilities. This is very much appreciated as Open Door had to, unfortunately, cancel their Mid-Summer Lunch this year. The members, staff, volunteers and Board of Trustees at Open Door extend their sincere thanks to all involved with Ardmore Rovers F.C. Pictured are: Suzanne Cox, Dermot Kane, Tom Allen, Graham Costelloe and Stewart Graham.

Volunteers needed for Camino Challenge

Focus Ireland is aiming to raise €100,000 from its Camino challenge this autumn, funding vital services for people who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of losing their home.

The Camino Portugues Coastal trip will take place from September 25th to October 2nd, 2025 finishing in the beautiful city of Santiago de Compostela. This year's Camino fundraiser is being launched by broadcaster and health coach Clare McKenna who will be taking part in this year's event.

Clare McKenna said, "The Focus Ireland Camino Walk is a wonderful opportunity to step away from daily life for a week, to move the body, and take on a challenge that's tough but manageable. More importantly, it's a vital fundraiser for Focus Ireland to support families in Ireland to avail of the services that they so urgently need. We can often feel powerless but there is much we can do. Taking on The Camino is a great way to help raise funds, to join in community and to give back - essential components of our wellbeing. I hope to gather together a group of all ages and backgrounds. The Camino is often seen as something to do in retirement but in truth anyone can go, we will walk as a group, walk alone, every day will be a unique adventure. So if you want to take on a life changing experience that can change the lives of many families and people experiencing homelessness, then please sign up and walk with me this September."

This fully guided trek will bring the group along 120km of the Portuguese Coastal Route starting in the town of Oia and walking to the historic city of Santiago. It will travel through Baiona, Vigo, Pontevedra, Caldas de Reis and Pardon. The seven night trip includes five walking days of varying distances and elevation.

Each participant is asked to raise €3,000 and all logistics including flights, accommodation, transfers, breakfast, dinner and guides are managed and organised by Focus Ireland. For more information and to register your interest visit <https://www.focusireland.ie/event-and-challenges/camino-walk/>

Celebrating adult learners in Wicklow and Bray

Presentation events highlight educational achievements

The achievements of adult learners were celebrated recently at two special certificate presentation events hosted by Wicklow Further Education and Training (FET) Centres. Held at Coláiste Chill Mhantain and Coláiste Raithín, the events recognised the dedication, resilience, and accomplishments of students who completed a wide range of courses across the 2024/2025 academic year.



Ava-Rose Kelly at the Adult Education Awards at Colaiste Chill Mhantain.



Kinga Socha at the Adult Education Awards at Colaiste Raithin, Bray.

On Wednesday 21st May, students from the Wicklow Further Education and Training Centre gathered at Coláiste Chill Mhantain, where coordinators Christine Wray (Adult Learning Centre), Arwen Finch (Youthreach), and Maria Lally (VTOS / BTEI) presented certificates and warmly congratulated students. Just over a week later, on Thursday 29th May, the Bray Adult Learning Centre hosted its own ceremony at Coláiste Raithín, led by Christine Wray and Adult Education Officer Caitríona Cullen, welcoming a large crowd of students, tutors, family, and friends.

Both events paid tribute to the commitment it takes to return to education, especially for adults balancing work, family, and study. "The decision to return to education as adults is nothing short of inspiring," said Christine Wray, acknowledging the courage and determination shown by learners throughout the year.

Students were presented with QQI awards across levels 1 through 6, reflecting the diverse programmes available through the FET Centres in both Wicklow and Bray. In Wicklow, students including Alice Bacaoanu, Sumaya Elsheikh Mohammed, Phyllis Armstrong, Gill Quinn, and Dallas Porter spoke about how returning to education has impacted their lives. At the Bray event, speakers



Graduates Phyllis Armstrong, Brid Whyte, Marie McCann and Aine Duggan at the Adult Education Awards at Colaiste Chill Mhantain.

Surovi Akter and Noreen Scanlon shared powerful reflections on their adult learning journeys; stories of persistence, transformation, and personal growth.

The events highlighted not only the academic achievements of the students but also the broader role of adult education. Many participants now plan to pursue further study, enter new areas of employment, or apply their skills in community settings, reflecting the varied outcomes that adult learning can support.

Wicklow FETC, based on the Murrough, and Bray Adult Learning Centre both offer a wide range of flexible learning opportunities, including part-time QQI-accredited courses. Facilities at the Wicklow Centre include modern classrooms, IT and woodwork rooms, art and sports spaces, and dedicated guidance services to help learners with everything from career planning to grant applications.



Lidiya Lytvyniuk and Ruslan Kalchuk at the Adult Education Awards at Colaiste Raithin, Bray.



A PLACE FOR YOU

With campuses in Carlow, Waterford and Wexford, now is the time to find your place at South East Technological University.

setu.ie



Whitmore demands action on primary school place shortage

Request for Department of Education to meet directly with local schools

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has called on the Minister for Education to urgently dispatch a senior departmental official to meet with six primary schools in the Wicklow Town and Rathnew area, amid a growing crisis in school capacity.

Deputy Whitmore said that despite providing detailed data to the Department in January, local schools have received no follow-up or support, leaving over 100 children without a school place for the upcoming academic year.

"As of last week, 119 children across various year groups have no school place in Wicklow Town and Rathnew. That includes 36 children

who need Junior Infant places," Deputy Whitmore explained.

"The six schools affected, St Coen's NS, St Patrick's NS, Holy Rosary NS, Gaelscoil Chill Mhantain, Educate Together NS, and Glebe NS, have all reached full capacity and are unable to accommodate the growing demand. I wrote to the Minister for Education, Minister Helen McEntee, urging

her to send a department official to engage directly with the schools."

"This is an urgent situation. Families are in limbo, and schools are doing everything they can without any support or direction from the Department. A senior official must be sent to meet with these schools immediately to ensure that every child in the area has access to education in September."



Deputy Whitmore met with the local principals of St. Coen's NS and Gaelscoil Chill Mhantain.

Music students to benefit from education grants

Young musicians in County Wicklow are set to benefit from new funding aimed at expanding access to music education, Tánaiste Simon Harris has said. Three local music organisations have been awarded a total of €7,000 in grant funding to support their work in nurturing young talent and delivering music education across the county.

Speaking about the announcement, Tánaiste Harris said: "It is so important that young people are given the opportunity to be creative, to express themselves, and to bring communities together music education plays a vital role in this."

"This funding will help ensure that more young people across Wicklow have the chance to engage with music, develop their talents, and participate in classes, regardless of their background or circumstances. The grants are part of a broader effort to strengthen arts education and foster creativity in communities throughout Ireland."

Minister for Education and Youth, Helen McEntee said: "Congratulations to the music organisations who received funding under this round of the Non-Mainstream Music Education Bursary Scheme which provides €100,000 in grants to music education organisation. I want to acknowledge the commitment of the organisations and the many volunteers who give their time and skills to work with young musicians across the country, providing them with valuable opportunities to explore their full potential."

Wicklow students honoured in annual Ireland Funds scholarship programme

Recently at a special event hosted at LinkedIn's Community Space in Dublin, the latest class of incoming 2025 George Moore Scholars, 57 exceptional students from throughout Ireland, who have been selected to undertake a Master's degree abroad, were announced. Among this year's scholars are two students from Wicklow, Zakia Laassri and Sophie Yang.

Later this year, these scholars will begin their academic journeys at leading international universities across the United States, Canada, the UK, and Europe. Since 2020, the George Moore Scholars programme has awarded over €13m to support over 250 students.

Launched in 2020 by The Ireland Funds, the George Moore Scholars programme invests in the next generation of leaders and innovators. The programme widens access to postgraduate education and extends learning opportunities for students across the island of Ireland. As well as financial support, it provides mentorship and access to a global network of fellow scholars to empower students to achieve their fullest potential and contribute to the global community.

The Ireland Funds is a global philanthropic network established in 1976 to promote and support peace, culture, education and community development throughout the island of Ireland, and Irish-related causes around the world. It has benefited the work of thousands of different organisations, with both financial and non-financial support.



Incoming 2025 George Moore Scholars, Wilton Park, June 23 2025. 57 students who have been selected to undertake a Master's degree abroad, were announced. Launched in 2020 by The Ireland Funds, the George Moore Scholars programme invests in the next generation of leaders and innovators. (Photo Credit: Mark Stedman).

Two Wicklow Primary Schools scoop major awards in the All-Island Junior Entrepreneur Programme

St. Saviour's National School, Rathdrum and St. Patrick's NS, Curtlestown, are among the top award winners in the All-Island Junior Entrepreneur Programme

St. Saviour's National School

5th & 6th Class at St. Saviour's National School, Rathdrum, were today honoured with the

Dynamic Designers Award in the All-Island Junior Entrepreneur Awards, for their JEP business, Festive Felts. It was the second time teacher Victoria Spencer and her class were

recognised - her class received the overall Class of the Year award in 2023.

"We designed and made eight unique, colourful, hand-crafted Christmas characters which we could

turn into key chains or tree decorations. We had to source suitable boxes and design eye-catching labels, a class representative explained. "Then we partnered with Michael Tierney of Tierney's Pharmacy, who agreed to stock the product. Michael was also our class mentor and gave us some great advice. The highlight of the project was seeing the product we created prominently displayed in the shop".

The class got to work on promoting their new business and designed a set of marketing posters in several different languages to reach the families of children in the school. They also contacted local media. The children advertised and sold the felts in the school and at the Christmas mar-

ket. They made almost €900 profit, which they used to fund an end-of-year school camping trip and donated the remaining money to charity.

St. Patrick's NS

5th & 6th Class at St. Patrick's NS, Curtlestown, Co. Wicklow were honoured with the Gamechangers Award for their JEP business, Wick-it.

Wick-it is a sustainable, eco-friendly candle business. "The class were inspired to explore candle-making as Max Benjamin Candle business is located down the valley from the school", said Donna Fallon, the class teacher. They decided to check out the competition early on and arranged a visit".

The class had studied the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and decided to put

sustainability at the heart of their business. They sourced eco-soy wax for the candles because it is renewable and biodegradable. They used recycled jars for containers and labelled them with compostable paper and string. They also offered a half-price refill service. Following through on other sustainable development goals, they grew edible plants in the school garden and donated 10% of their profit to Pieta House.

The pupils ran a hugely successful sales and marketing campaign. They created colourful posters, ads and a promotional video. Commenting on the future of the business, a class representative said, "Our business visitor, Ray Murphy from O'Suan Sleep, told us that the second business will become clear if you keep working.



5th & 6th Class at St. Patrick's NS were honoured with the Gamechangers Award for their Wick-it candles.

He was right!

We noticed that lots of people asked us how we made the candles, so now we're providing candle-making kits (our wax, wick, jar, petals, instructions in a

100% compostable package), and we'll see how it goes"

The two projects were among just 12 category winners out of over 200 projects submitted.



5th & 6th Class at St. Saviour's National School were today honoured with the Dynamic Designers Award for their JEP business, Festive Felts.

Whitmore calls for sensory space funding to support Wicklow's special schools

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore, has written to the Minister for Education, Helen McEntee, calling for a dedicated funding stream to support the development of inclusive sensory spaces in special schools.

"Special schools in Wicklow, like many across the country, are struggling to provide the sensory supports their students need. Unlike newly built schools, which are designed with sensory gardens, soft play areas, and multi-purpose spaces, many of our existing schools have no such facilities, and no clear path to getting them," Deputy Whitmore explained.

"Smaller schools, which make up the majority of special schools in Ireland, often lack the fundraising capacity to develop these essential spaces on their own. In

Wicklow, we've seen schools doing their best with limited resources, but they are being forced to rely on emergency or minor works schemes that were never designed to meet the long-term needs of children with complex needs. That's not good enough."

In her letter, Deputy Whitmore proposed that the Department of Education apply to the Dormant Accounts Fund to create a dedicated measure in the 2026 Action Plan for inclusive outdoor sensory spaces in special schools.

"This is a practical and achiev-

able step that would bring older schools in Wicklow and beyond up to the standard of new builds. Sensory spaces are not a luxury, they are essential for regulation, emotional wellbeing, and learning. Every child deserves access to a safe, supportive, and developmentally appropriate environment.

"We need to ensure equality across our special education system and that students are not disproportionately disadvantaged due to the age of their school, this proposal would go a long way in achieving that," Deputy Whitmore concluded.



Niamh Murphy, Brigitte Deveraux and Anne Parle at the Loreto Class of '75 reunion in Butler & Barry, Bray.

It's My Business

Junior Achievement Ireland's "It's My Business" brings entrepreneurial education to over 7,500 students nationwide, with the support of AIB

Junior Achievement Ireland (JAI) has announced the continuation of its impactful partnership with AIB, which will see the "It's My Business" entrepreneurial education programme extended for another three years. Now entering its fourth year, the initiative has already reached more than 7,500 4th class students across the country, supported by 500 volunteers from the business community.



4th class pupils from Ravenswell Primary School.

Launched in 2022, "It's My Business" was designed by JAI and AIB to foster entrepreneurial thinking and develop key transferable skills such as communication, problem-solving, and teamwork in primary school students aged 9-10. All JAI's programmes support the Department of Education's DEIS Action Plan by promoting equality of opportunity through innovative, real-world learning experiences.

Developing Young Entrepreneurs - With a Sustainable Focus

Delivered over five engaging modules, the "It's My Business" programme walks students through the fundamentals of starting a business - from identifying entrepreneurial characteristics, to researching markets and pitching business ideas. The programme culminates in a Dragons' Den-style pitch session, where students present their ideas to "investors" from the world of work.

Over the past three years, students have developed a range of imaginative, sustainability-focused business ideas - including an app to detect food allergens, clothing that offers both UV and rain protection, and even a robot designed to help with housework. Recent projects have also featured upcycled musical instruments and sports gear, reflecting a strong interest in environmentally responsible innovation.

Building for the Future AIB's renewed sponsorship of "It's My Business" ensures the programme can continue to grow, with a target of reaching 12,000 students nationwide by 2028. To date, the programme has been delivered by volunteers from 70 JAI partner organisations, including 114 AIB employees who have generously given their time and expertise.

Speaking about the impact volunteers from the world of work can have on a student, JAI's CEO, Helen Raftery, said, "Educators often refer to

school communities, not just schools, because the involvement of families and the wider community is vital to achieving positive educational outcomes for all children. Through the support of dedicated

volunteers from AIB and beyond, students are inspired by role models from the world of work. These connections help them build confidence and see a world of opportunity ahead. Our 30 years of

partnership with AIB has positively impacted nearly 1 million young people in Ireland."

For more information on how to get involved in the "It's My Business" programme, visit www.jai.ie.



4th class students Ellie Doherty-Tierney and Ashley Seong from Ravenswell Primary School in Bray.

Calls for young people's voices to be heard ahead of Budget 2026

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore and Social Democrats Councillor for Bray Caroline Winstanley visited Crosscare's Youth Club in Bray to raise awareness about the critical role of youth work and to discuss the National Youth Council of Ireland's (NYCI) key pre-budget priorities.

The visit provided an opportunity for Deputy Whitmore and Councillor Winstanley to meet directly with young people and youth workers in Bray to hear how youth services are impacting their lives and what they need to thrive.

"Youth services like Crosscare are lifelines for many young people in Wicklow and across Ireland. They offer safe, inclusive spaces where young people can access support, build relationships, and develop confidence. These services are not optional extras, they are essential community infrastructure," Deputy Whitmore explained.

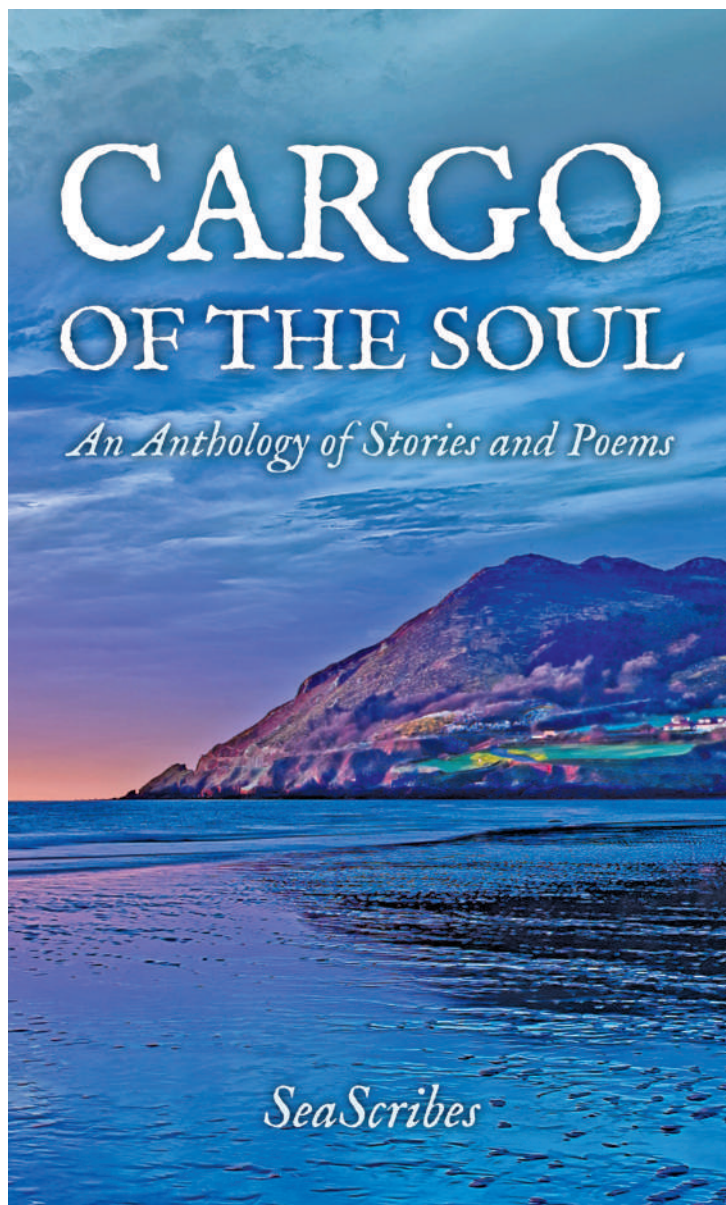
"It's so important that TDs and councillors see what youth work looks like on the ground and hear directly from those who benefit from it. The NYCI's pre-budget submission includes critical funding asks for youth services, mental health supports, and opportunities for young people across Ireland," commented Deputy Whitmore.

"Young people are facing real challenges, from mental health pressures to a lack of accessible opportunities. Youth services help to address those challenges head-on, but they need proper investment to do so," explained Councillor Winstanley.

"We are committed to supporting the work of youth organisations both locally and nationally as young people are facing real challenges, from mental health pressures to a lack of accessible opportunities," concluded Deputy Whitmore.



Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore and Social Democrats Councillor for Bray Caroline Winstanley meeting with youth workers at Crosscare Youth Club in Bray.



Writers group publishes first book with all profits going to the RNLI

SeaScribes, a group of eight emerging writers who meet weekly in a room above the Mermaid Theatre in Bray, has published a first collection of short stories and poems, pledging all profits from the book to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI).

The anthology, *Cargo Of The Soul*, also features photographs by Bray Camera Club, many of them local scenes, including the book's cover shot of Bray Head at sunrise.

The stories and poems range from a memoir of a life in Northern Ireland during 'the troubles' to tales of family grievances and sliding door moments that change lives forever.

Founder of the group, Mairead De Bhal, believes there is something for every taste.

"The great thing about an anthology of different writers is that it will inevitably capture a full range of emotions," she said. "We have stories that will raise a smile next to poems that will break your heart."

Alice Sheridan, a former journalist and magazine publisher, joined



Three SeaScribes writers (left to right): Mairead De Bhal, Tadhg Paul, Alice Sheridan.

SeaScribes to develop her fiction and contributes four short stories to the book. She commented, "There's a big difference between journalism and creative writing, and I rel-

ished the opportunity to focus on my fiction, especially when I knew it was supporting such a good cause as the RNLI."

Barbara Murphy was one of the first writers to

join the group in 2023. A North Wicklow resident, Barbara's poems have appeared in the Wicklow Times and she's been involved with local writing initiatives for many

years. "It's a great way to develop your skills with like-minded people who share ideas and give constructive feedback. I'm delighted to be involved with the book," she said.

Another of the writers, Tadhg Paul, rediscovered a passion for poetry after an injury left him hospitalised for almost a year. "I wrote a lot when I was younger and have come back to it with a new enthusiasm, thanks in part to SeaScribes and my involvement in the book," he said. Tadhg's visual poetry provides the centre piece of the anthology.

Other contributors are Lesley Smith, Thomas McMahon, Naomh O'Connor and Ian Campbell.

The book is now on sale at Amazon. To find out more about SeaScribes, visit www.SeaScribes.ie.

Wicklow-based designer represents Ireland in this year's Révélations 2025

Design & Crafts Council Ireland (DCCI) is proud to announce that Ireland has been selected as the Country of Honour for Révélations 2027 - international fine craft and international biennial. The announcement was made at an event in the Irish Embassy in Paris, during Ireland's inaugural appearance at Révélations 2025 which takes place at the Grand Palais in Paris. It marks a significant milestone for Irish craft on the global stage.

This profound recognition by Ateliers d'Art de France, the organisers of Révélations, following Ireland's first-ever participation in the 2025 edition. From Wednesday 21st May to Sunday 25th May, Ireland debuted at the international exhibition platform in Le Banquet area, showcasing the country's vibrant craft mastery through the work of seven outstanding designer makers.

Furniture designer Edwyn James Hickey, originally from Limerick but currently based in Ashford, was one of this year's presentation feature designer makers.

Stephane Galerneau, President of Ateliers d'Art de France, said: "It is with great honour and profound gratitude that we announce the Republic of Ireland as the Country of Honour for the 2027 edition of Révélations. Through this year's debut on Le Banquet, we are discovering the richness of Ireland's artistic heritage and its contemporary expressions. Ireland's remarkable creativity, its openness to the world, and

the infectious dynamism of its craft scene will undoubtedly find powerful resonance in the heart of Révélations. We look forward to showcasing Ireland's finest craftspeople, not only as exhibitors but as storytellers and ambassadors of their art."

Organised by Ateliers d'Art de France since 2013, Révélations 2025 gathers 550 creators from 35 countries, showcasing outstanding craftsmanship across a wide range of disciplines including ceramics, glass, textiles, wood, and metal. As the premier international event for fine craft and contemporary creation, Révélations is a vital meeting point for the global creative community. Over five days, it draws together collectors, connoisseurs, artistic directors, architects, interior designers, gallerists, and art dealers - creating a vibrant space for cultural exchange and professional connection. With its global perspective and dedication to excellence, the biennial serves as a dynamic platform for dialogue, innovation, and artistic discovery.

Curated by artist and curator, Ava Hayes, this year's Irish presentation features designer makers: Helen O'Shea (multimedia sculpture), Michael Murphy (sculpture), Edwyn James Hickey (furniture design), Cecilia Moore (metalwork), Jennifer Hickey (ceramics), Alan Meredith (woodwork), and Noel Donnellan (ceramics). Selected through leading national initiatives, these artisans represent a compelling blend of tradition and forward-thinking creativity.

Niall Burgess, Ambassador of Ireland to France and to Monaco, commented: "This landmark collaboration reflects the enduring cultural ties between France and Ireland and highlights our shared commitment to supporting excellence in contemporary craft and design. It is a pleasure to see Ireland's creative talent featured in France alongside leading makers, offering a unique perspective where tradition, innovation and artistry converge."

Peter Hynes, Chair, Design & Crafts Council Ireland, added: "To debut at Révélations in 2025

and be named Country of Honour for 2027 is a tremendous honour. This international platform celebrates the very best in contemporary craft, and we are thrilled to present the vision, talent and creativity of Ireland's designer-makers to a global audience. Over the coming two years we will be looking forward to bringing together an incredible display of craft for Révélations 2027."

Visitors to Révélations are invited to discover exclusive, debut works, many of which have been created especially for this landmark edition - the first to be held at the Grand Palais since its historic restoration. The collection is presented within a refined and immersive scenography by acclaimed designer Adrien Gardère, offering a visually compelling environment that enhances the artistry on display. With an audience of over 40,000 expected, Révélations is a key international platform for contemporary makers, placing Irish craft at the heart of the global stage - both in 2025 and as the centrepiece in 2027.



Ashford-based furniture designer Edwyn James Hickey.

Local filmmakers launch crowdfunding campaign for sci-fi short 'Shelter'

A group of local filmmakers have launched a crowdfunding campaign for their next short film, *Shelter*, a science-fiction thriller set in a future Ireland shaped by environmental collapse.

Set against a backdrop of drought, wildfires, and unclean air, *Shelter* imagines a country where the effects of the climate crisis have become a life-or-death reality. The story follows John and his daughter Saoirse as they seek refuge from a massive dust-storm and take cover with a stranger to pass the night.

The short film is being directed and co-written by Santiago Rivas Pertile, a County Wicklow-based filmmaker with over 10 years' experience working on short films and music videos. He recently completed *Dealing With It*, a psychological thriller awarded the Wicklow Film Fund in 2024. His other notable projects include *The Trip* (2022) and *Elixir* (2016).

Shelter is being produced by Richie Kearney, an

award-winning producer based in County Kildare. The production is also being supported by Glass Knight Digital Ltd, a specialist VFX and 3D animation studio based in Kildare.

The confirmed cast includes Gearoid Kavanagh, Joni Morris, and Andrea Kelly, with both Morris and Kelly based in Wicklow.

To help fund the production, the team has launched a GoFundMe campaign. Contributions will go toward essential costs including equipment, locations, and post-production.

To support the campaign or learn more, visit: <https://gofund.me/a71fab4e>



Film artwork design by Julie Lin (@chihyu_art on Instagram).

Documentary Week at Mermaid Arts Centre

Mermaid County Wicklow Arts Centre has announced an inaugural Documentary Week from Monday July 21st - Saturday July 26th. A whole week carved out to celebrate some of the most acclaimed documentaries from recent years.

Mermaid's film programmer Stephanie Bruno says that following such an overwhelming response to our regular cinema programme, Mermaid is thrilled to showcase such a range of award-winning documentaries on a wide variety of topics. With two of the screenings also featuring special Q&As, it's sure to be an interesting and inspiring week!

Monday 21 July - One to One: John & Yoko
Cert: 15A

Set against a faithful recreation of their NYC apartment, see the legendary musical duo's whirlwind career/ relationship across eighteen defining months.

Tuesday 22 July - Housewife of the Year
Cert: PG

Award-winning film-

maker Ciaran Cassidy documents Ireland's treatment of women in the past through the prism of the surreal, live televised competition: *Housewife of the Year*.

Wednesday 23 July - No Other Land
Cert: Club

Oscar winning Best Documentary Feature *No Other Land* follows Basel Adra, a young Palestinian activist, as he documents the real

destruction of a Palestinian community in the occupied West Bank.

Thursday 24 July - Becoming Led Zeppelin
Cert: PG

In their own words *Becoming Led Zeppelin* explores the origins of this iconic group and their meteoric rise in just one year against all the odds.

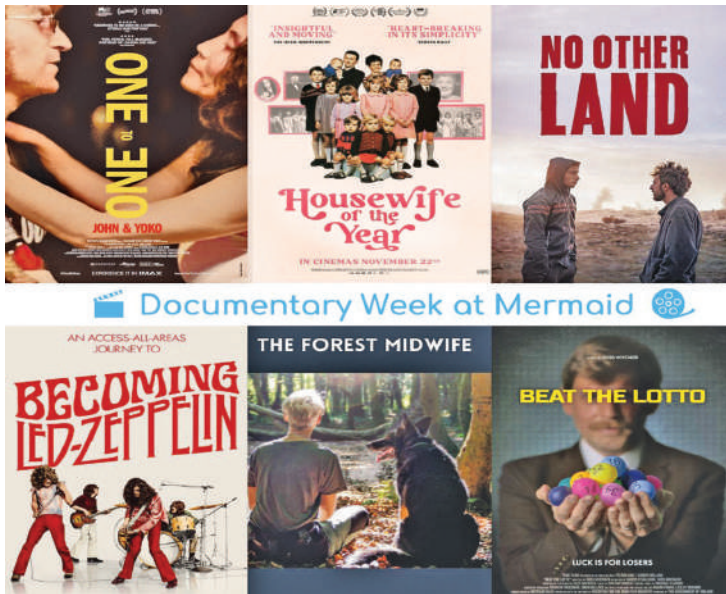
Friday 25 July - The Forest Midwife + Q&A
Cert: CLUB

Special screening followed by Q&A. Follows writer & social entrep-

reneur Catherine Cleary on a mission to protect and create native woodland despite her family's scepticism & resistance from local farmers after she buys a barren farm in Corry, Co. Roscommon.

Saturday 26 July - Beat The Lotto + Q&A
Cert: G

Special screening followed by Q&A. Cork based mathematician Stefan Klincewicz gathers ragtag team of chancers and masterminded an audacious plan to hack the lotto to win millions.



Lament for Palestine

A poem by Oisin Large. Calary, Wicklow

She stretches out her arms
not to harvest,
but to question the sky:
How many more stars must fall
before you call this night imas-
sacré?

Her hands tremble
like a sparrow's wing
caught in the net of a sniper's
scope.
Not from age.
But from the weight of names
she stitches into her shroud,
each syllable a child
who learned eternity
before apple.

Her cloak drags behind her,
a flag of shadows
bleached by phosphorous suns.
It no longer casts a shape,
only the absence
of a street, a hospital,
a cradle rocked
by a mother singing
ya tir, ya tir
to a bird that will not return.

She walks among the tents.
Again.
Again.
Again.

As if the earth rotates
only to grind bones
into this hourglass of dust.

Each soul she gathers
roots her deeper
in a soil that refuses
to swallow its dead.
The land is an open mouth
that cannot scream.

She speaks to a silence
older than God:

O Stone before Stone,
take me.
Let me sleep in the sea
not as salt, but as a letter
washed ashore in Jaffa:

We died thirsty.
Send oranges.

Or lay me under Galilee's pines
where roots clutch
the keys of the displaced
like unblossomed jasmine.

Let the doves forget my name.
Their wings are ash now,
their song a eulogy
for a boy counting rockets
instead of sheep.

Let the soil call another reaper.

Let me go.
I was not made to cradle
a whole nation's last breath
in my skeletal palms.
I was not made to be
the midwife of ghosts.

But the plain chains her.
The horizon is a wall.
Every child's phantom
wraps her ankles in barbed wire:

Stay.
Who will remember
the taste of za'atar

if you leave?
Who will recite
the pulse of the olive grove
when even its ashes
are stolen?

She remembers the trees,
how their branches wrote psalms
in the dialect of wind.
Now they stand as blackened
minarets,
preaching desolation.

She tears her veil,
stuffs it with rubble,
builds a cairn for the unanswered:

Is this my exile?
To outlive the living?
To become a monument
of unclaimed shoes?

No answer.
Only the drone's hymn
and beneath it
the rustle of a UNRWA sack
nursing a body
too small for a coffin.

Only the sound
not of silence
but of a mother
digging with bare hands
through concrete and blood,
whispering to the ruin:

Take my name instead.
Take it.
And let him breathe.

Take WICKLOW TIMES

with you...wherever you go
on your Phone, Laptop or Tablet !

✓ NO PASSWORDS ✓ NO PAYWALL ✓ NO PROBLEM!
PLUS access to over a year's worth of back issues!

www.wicklowtimes.net
or email info@localtimes.ie and we will email you a copy!

Shorts for Wee Ones at Mermaid

12th July - 12pm. €5

Suitable for ages 3+

A pufferfish tries to seem as strong as possible; Piglet and Cow face the strange and unfamiliar world underneath them; a baker becomes allergic to flour; Alfred wanders without a home until he meets Sonia; and five little monsters have fun following signs.



Wicked Sing-along at Mermaid

12th July - 3pm. €10/€8

Wicked, the untold story of the witches of Oz, stars Emmy, Grammy and Tony winning powerhouse Cynthia Erivo as Elphaba, a young woman, misunderstood because of her unusual green skin, who has yet to discover her true power, and Grammy-winning global superstar Ariana Grande as Glinda, a popular young woman, gilded by privilege and ambition, who has yet to discover her true heart.



RECRUITMENT

GROUNDSMAN /GARDENER

Charleville Estate
Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow.

JOB DESCRIPTION:

- Gardener/Groundsman
- Full-time, Monday to Friday.

ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Garden machinery experience
- Ride on mower experience
- Spraying course desirable but not essential
- Must have full driving licence.
- 2 /3 years' experience in similar role preferable.
- Chain saw experience desirable but not essential.

DUTIES:

- Grass cutting
- Hedge cutting
- Tree planting
- General garden maintenance

SALARY:

- Salary by negotiation.

Email CV to:

Charlevillerecruitment123@gmail.com
or post to: Senior Admin, Charleville,
Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow, A98V293.

Re-imagining textiles with Wicklow County Council

Wicklow County Council is excited to present a new series of textile upcycling mini summer camps and workshops for kids! Join textile artists Tamara Fiabane and Susie Kenny for their joyful, nature-inspired workshops.

Organised by the Environmental Awareness Office in partnership with Wicklow's Library Service, these mini summer camps are an opportunity you won't want to miss.

The Salty Stitch mini summer camp will take place over two mornings at Arklow and Greystones libraries, where kids will create beautiful crafts inspired by the nearby coastal environment. These workshops will also raise awareness about our Blue Flag beaches.

The Woodland Stitch workshops will feature a morning session at Carnew and Tinahely libraries, focusing on the native old oak woodland of Tomnafinnoge. Participants will engage in stitching and embellishing with beads, buttons, ribbons, and more, creating scenes featuring jellyfish, whales, birds, butterflies, and much more.

As we witness an overwhelming amount of textiles being discarded, Wicklow County Council Cathaoirleach Cllr Melanie Corrigan emphasises the significance of these workshops: "Teaching young people the basics of sewing and repair is about more than just creativity - it's about self-reliance and sustainability. These lifelong skills empower children to take care of what they own, reduce waste and make thoughtful choices. It's a simple, practical step toward building a more resilient and resourceful community."

Director of Services for Climate, Environment, Recreation, and Amenity Theresa O'Brien, strongly supports these workshops as well: "Encouraging creativity and sustainability from a young age is vital. This coastal-inspired textile upcycling summer camp offers the perfect blend of both. Not only will children learn practical skills and environmental awareness, but they'll also connect with the unique cultural and natural beauty of our coastline. It's a wonderful opportunity to inspire the next generation of conscious creators."

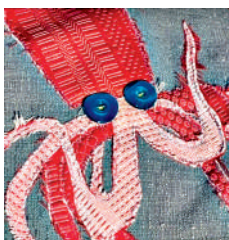
These workshops are free, but spaces are limited. Booking is required and can be made by visiting or contacting the respective libraries. Tamara and Susie are excited to work with groups of children aged

8-12 at the following libraries:

Arklow Library

Dates: July 8th and 9th
Time: 10:30am - 12:30pm

Age Group: 8-12
Group Size: 12 (Parents or grandparents are welcome to help)
To book, contact: arklowlibrary@wicklowcoco.ie or drop in.



Greystones Library

Dates: July 15th & 16th
Time: 10:30am - 12:30pm
To book contact: greylib@wicklowcoco.ie or drop into the library

Tinahely Library

Date: July 10th
Time: 11am - 1pm
Age group: 8-12
Group size: 6
To book contact: sivers@wicklowcoco.ie or drop into the library



Artwork by Tamara Fiabane.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Arc Design seeks full planning permission on behalf Tony and Katie Doyle for the development at 6 & 7 KILCOOLE ROAD, DELGANY, CO. WICKLOW - A63 FC97 & A63 RX67.

The proposed development consists of:
- 2no. new 4-bedroom, two storey detached houses to the rear of existing houses at No.6 & No.7 Kilcoole road.
- New vehicular entrances to 2no. proposed dwellings and existing No.6 & 7 dwellings allowing for sufficient sight lines onto public road.

- Connection of two dwellings to foul drain line and the provision of surface water soakaway to meet BRE Digest 365 standards for the new houses.
- Amendments to existing dividing boundaries of No. 6 & 7 dwellings.

The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours. The planning application may be viewed online at www.wicklow.ie, under planning online enquires.

A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20, within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the planning authority in making a decision on the application. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions or may refuse to grant permission.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Arc Design seeks full planning permission on behalf Jonathon Taylor for the development at Elangeni, KILCOOLE, CO. WICKLOW - A63 W212.

The proposed development consists of:
- 1no. new 3-bedroom, two storey detached house to the rear of existing house at Elangeni, Kilcoole Road.
- New vehicular entrances to new dwelling and existing Elangeni dwelling allowing for sufficient sight lines onto public road.
- Connection of dwelling to foul drain line and the provision of surface water soakaway to meet BRE Digest 365 standards for the new house.
- Amendments to existing dividing boundaries of Elangeni and number No.6 dwellings.

The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours. The planning application may be viewed online at www.wicklow.ie, under planning online enquires.

A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20, within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the planning authority in making a decision on the application. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions or may refuse to grant permission.

Carnew Library

Date: July 10th
Time: 2.15 - 4.15pm
Age group: 8-12
Group size: 6
To book contact: MHenness@wicklowcoco.ie or drop into the library

For more information about these workshops please contact the Environmental Awareness Officer by emailing eao@wicklowcoco.ie
For more information on Blue Flag Beaches: Wicklow.ie

PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I, Philip O'Reilly, intend to apply for permission consequent on the grant of outline permission (Ref. No. 120000064078) for development at this site 37 Season Park, Newtownmountkennedy, Wicklow. A63FC64.

The development will consist of:
Construction of a single-storey front porch measuring approximately 1.25 metres deep by 5.2 metres wide aligning with the front elevation of the existing dwelling, with pitched roof and external finishes to match existing dwelling. Height to ridge: 3 metres. The porch will include a main entrance door, a side window and front window for natural lighting.

The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours. The planning application may be viewed online at www.wicklow.ie, under planning online enquires.

A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20, within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the planning authority in making a decision on the application. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions or may refuse to grant permission.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Arc Design seeks full planning permission on behalf Glynn Gillet for the development at 5 & 6 KNOCKROE, KILCOOLE, CO. WICKLOW - A63 AE08 & A63 WY40.

The proposed development involves the amalgamation of two existing semi-detached houses to form a single detached 4-bedroom dwelling. The works include alterations, renovations, and extensions to the existing buildings. The development comprises modifications to the existing elevations and floor plans, demolition of all existing single-storey domestic sheds, and the construction of a new garage to the rear. The proposal also includes all associated site development works, drainage infrastructure, and landscaping required to facilitate the development.

The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours. The planning application may be viewed online at www.wicklow.ie, under planning online enquires.

A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20, within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the planning authority in making a decision on the application. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions or may refuse to grant permission.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Significant Information / Revised Plans

I hereby give notice of the submission of significant further information to Wicklow County Council in relation to planning application ref no: 25/60210 for Packaging Laundry Ltd who is applying for permission for the development at N11 South Point Business Park, Charvey Lane, Rathnew, Wicklow.

The proposed development comprises amendments to the permission granted by Wicklow County Council under Planning Ref. 21558, comprising:

- The approved block which comprises of units 33 and 34 (c.1086 sq.m) to be removed and the approved block which comprises of units 30, 31 & 32 (c. 1,623 sq.m) to be amalgamation into one block to facilitate the provision of a single Industrial Unit (c. 2,285 sq.m) for use as a packaging laundry facility. The provision of an enclosed external yard (c. 831 sq.m), including a water tank and plant.
- The provision of Solar Panels at roof level.
- Minor amendments to the approved road layout.

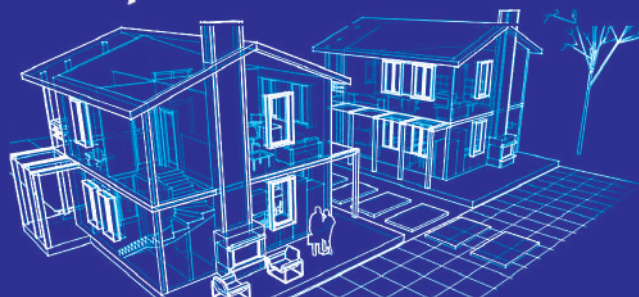
And, all associated site and drainage works to facilitate the development on a site of c.0.4Ha. The application relates to development, which comprises an activity requiring a waste licence from the Environmental Protection Agency (under the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended).

Significant further information /revised plans have been furnished to the planning authority in respect of the proposed development, and are available for inspection or purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council during its public opening hours. A submission or observations in relation to the further information or revised plans may be made in writing to the planning authority within the period of 2 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the revised notices. A submission or observation must be accompanied by the prescribed fee except in the case of a person or body who has already made a submission or observation. Applicants should refer to Article 35 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2011.

ATTENTION Architects, Planners & Builders

Reach the widest readership for your planning notices in County Wicklow with Wicklow Times

Call 01 286 9111 or email pauline@localtimes.ie



Suckler and beef farmers advised to get ready for autumn tax bills

Business advisory firm Ifac is advising Wicklow suckler and beef farmers to start managing their tax cashflow now, ahead of autumn tax bills.

An ifac review of 2024 figures to date, and projections for 2025, shows the majority of suckler and beef farmers across the country will not only have larger income tax bills than normal, but in some cases, significant tax bills.

Suckler and beef farmers are currently receiving higher prices than ever before for their live-stock sales, both through the live trade and through beef prices received from processors.

Tom Doyle, Partner at ifac's Wicklow office, said: "Many would say that these prices are a long time coming and well deserved for the time, effort, capital and breeding over many years that the suckler and beef farmer has put into their herds. However, they now need to be aware of what their farm profits are for 2024, what tax is payable on these profits, and perhaps more importantly, what the likely farm income is going to be for 2025.

"For farmers looking at 2024 figures and their expected income for 2025, there are possibilities to reduce income tax

bills, invest in the farm for the future, and make the farm a safer place to live and work. With tax to pay in October, managing tax cashflow is incredibly important, so they need to get working, get their tax figure and understand their options."

Options to reduce income tax bills:

Stock relief

Stock relief is available on the increase in the value of stock on the farm at the year-end compared to the previous year. In summary, Revenue will give farmers an allowance of 25%, 50% or 100% of the increase in stock value.

Family wages

Across farms, there are children, uncles, aunts, parents, cousins, nephews and nieces involved in working on the farm, helping in the office, or with a share in a favourite cow or heifer on the farm. These family members often go unrewarded, but when there is a bit left over it can be spread around, which also helps reduce

your tax bill. To comply with PAYE modernisation rules, these family members need to be put on the payroll this year and a wage paid to their bank account and reported to Revenue.

Income averaging

Use income averaging where appropriate. Income averaging allows farmers to pay tax based on the average of five years' farming profits and losses.

Pension contributions

Pension contributions are a great way to reduce tax liabilities, reduce preliminary tax, and put money away to provide a future income in retirement. While a lot of farmers have made provision through a private pension fund, many are not contributing enough or making use of the maximum contribution limits.

Facilities and safety improvements

Investing in the farm by using additional profits generated can make the farm more profitable

in the future, a safer place to work, and more efficient for one person to manage when labour is short. Improving handling facilities, calving facilities, yard lighting, gates and barriers to make the farm safer - there is no point in having the best herd of cows or beef bullocks if you are unable to work them due to injury or worse.

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.



Catriona Merrigan and Hannah Salley at the official opening of the Laragh GAA Clubhouse.

LOCAL BUSINESS
LOCAL BUSINESS
LOCAL BUSINESS

ALLSHADES BLINDS
• Roller • Vertical • Wood Venetian
• Pleated • Velux • Roman
Tel: 087 2201600
FACTORY: Unit 10, Block 1, Broomhall
Business Park, Rathnew. Tel: 0404 20344

LOUISE D'ARCY
PGA HEAD PROFESSIONAL
THE PRO SHOP @ WICKLOW GOLF CLUB
JUNIOR GOLF CAMPS
For girls and boys at Wicklow Golf Club!
With PGA Head Professional Louise D'Arcy,
over 30 years of coaching experience.
July Dates: Tue 15th to 17th Morning or Afternoon
Tue 29th to 31st Morning or Afternoon
Aug Dates: Tue 12th to 14th Morning or Afternoon
MEMBERS & NON MEMBERS WELCOME!
CONTACT LOUISE TO BOOK YOUR PLACE **€95** per place
Tel: 087 751 0727 Email: Louisedarcypga@yahoo.ie

EB ELEGANT BATHROOMS
Your dream space comes to reality
Ciaran: 087 191 5480 Shane: 087 605 6326
info@elegantbathrooms.ie Check out our Facebook page
Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow
www.elegantbathrooms.ie

ANTO'S TREE SERVICES
Fully Insured Tree Surgeon
Pruning, Reductions and Removal
All Aspects of Tree Surgery
Tel: 087 610 9128

ALIZE FISH
Tel: 087 367 0217
Fresh Fish from the trawlers of Kilmore Quay to your plate
There is a fantastic catch of Wild Irish fish Just landed
Catch us in Greystones outside the Beach house in the morning
Thursday's only 7 till 2 - All large fish. That can be cut into chunky fillets.
• Cod • Hake • Haddock • Plaice • Lemonsole • Blacksole • Johnorey
• Red mullet • Monkfish • Ray • Turbot • Tuna
Freshly made chowder with a mix of all the days catch.
• Scallops • Fresh Irish prawn tails in shell • Wild peeled out of the shell • Wild mussels. • Seabass • Salmon • Trout
Catch me in Greystones, outside the Beach House from 7am - 2pm every Thursday.

PRIORITY LANDSCAPING
Family run business since 1999
• Garden Maintenance / Landscaping • Fencing
• Tree Felling • Stump Removal • Tree Surgery
• Patios • Paving • Driveways • Walling
Mobile: 085 191 9465
FREEPHONE: 1800 911 645
Email: prioritylandscaping.ie@gmail.com
www.prioritylandscaping.ie
Contact Pat for a free, no obligation quote

VASS AUTOS
We Would Love to Have You Visit Soon!
VW AUDI SALES AND SERVICE SPECIALISTS
Ballinglen, Tinahely, Co. Wicklow. Y14 N447
Email: info@vassautos.ie. Tel: 087 6371366

HAVE FUN AND LEARN GYMNASTICS
• Floor Gymnastics • Gymnastic Games
• Mini Equipment • Qualified Coach • Garda Vetted
Unit 3, Bray, South Business Park, Bray.
Wednesday/Thursday/Friday afternoons
Saturday/Sunday. 10am-2pm
Age 3 to 14 years old
Rathnew, St. Cohen's National School
Monday. Age 5 to 12 years old
Tel: 089 203 9210 (Piri)

ON POINT ROOFING & GUTTERING
FREE QUOTES TOP QUALITY WORKMANSHIP FULLY INSURED
ALL WICKLOW COVERED & WEXFORD
• Roof Repairs • New Roofs • Torch on Felting
• Roof Cleaning & Gutter Cleaning • Property Maintenance
• Guttering/Repairs/Replacements • UPVC Repairs/Replacements
• Leadwork & Chimney Repairs • Valley Repairs & Replacements
Tel: 0402 45045 Mobile: 085 7310407 / 085 1322477
Email: onpointroofingandguttering@gmail.com
www.onpointroofingandguttering@gmail.com

O'BRIENS ROOFING & GUTTERING
Gutters Cleaned & Sealed **From €49** Roof Repairs **From €199**
Call Richard: 087 348 8516
www.obriensroofingandguttering.ie

DERMOT FORTUNE PAINTING & DECORATING
20 Years Experience
REASONABLE RATES NO JOB TOO BIG OR SMALL
FREE QUOTE ON: 086-8613651

LOCAL GLAZING SPECIALISTS URBAN GLASS & GLAZING
■ Retro-fitting ■ Splash-backs
■ Bespoke Showers ■ Mirrors
■ Balustrades
10% DISCOUNT with this advert
URBANGLOSS.IE +353 87 719 4440

STORM GUARD
Roofing Repair Specialist
Get a FREE Quote today!
087 388 9604

THE FURNITURE SALE



**Hugo 5 Piece
Sectional Corner
WAS €2495**

**NOW
€1745**



**Storm Power
Recliner 2 Seater
WAS €1595**

**NOW
€1095**



**Velora 5ft Bed Frame
with Ottoman Bundle
WAS €2034**

**NOW
€1295**



**Siena Extending
Dining Table
WAS €1295**

**NOW
€845**

FIND US
Take Exit 7 on the N11.
We're just 5 minutes
from the exit!



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



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



www.flanagankerins.ie



+353 1 281 3338



sales@flanagankerins.ie

Unit 3, Bray Retail Park, Southern Cross Rd, Bray, Co. Wicklow, A98 W985