



WICKLOW PRIDE®

History and Timeline
2014-2026



WICKLOW PRIDE® FIRST
EVER PRIDE PARADE IN
COUNTY WICKLOW 2023

2014 – 2016

2014 – The Beginning

Wicklow Pride® was founded by Dave Thomas and Patrick Bracken with a focus on visibility, inclusion, and equality for the LGBTQIA+ community in County Wicklow.

Historic Civic Recognition

The first official flying of the Pride Flag at Wicklow government buildings, marking a historic moment of civic recognition for the LGBTQIA+ community.

2015 – Marriage Equality, Patronage and Recognition

Wicklow Pride® supported the Marriage Equality campaign. Senator David Norris became Patron. Simon Harris TD supported the festival. The first flying of the Transgender Pride Flag took place.

2016 – Permanent Pride Rainbow Crossing Campaign

Launch of the campaign for a permanent Pride Rainbow Crossing, advocating for visible, lasting symbols of inclusion in public spaces.





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2017 – 2020

2017-2019 – Community Building

Continued community building and outreach across County Wicklow, expanding visibility and support networks for LGBTQIA+ individuals and families.

2020 – COVID-19 Support

During the pandemic, Wicklow Pride® pivoted to online community engagement and support initiatives, ensuring the LGBTQIA+ community remained connected and supported during isolation.





WICKLOW PRIDE®
MONUMENT UNVEILED
BY SENATOR DAVID
NORRIS 2015, ARKLOW.

2021 – 2023

2021 – Ireland's First Permanent Pride Rainbow Crossing

Installation of Ireland's first permanent Pride Rainbow Crossing in Arklow, a landmark achievement in LGBTQIA+ visibility and civic inclusion.

2022-2023 – Growth and First Pride Parade

Significant growth in advocacy work. Wicklow's first Pride Parade took place, bringing the community together in celebration and solidarity.



Pride crossing repainting debate rages on

EOIN MAC RAGHNAILL

Councillor Peir Leonard has called the Arklow Municipal District's decision not to repaint the town's Pride rainbow crossing "insensitive and verging on cruel", while district staff have responded by saying they are liaising with the Wicklow Pride committee to find an alternative way to represent the LGBTQIA+ community.

Recently local councillors were informed by district staff that the Main Street crossing would not be refreshed after they received a correspondence wherein the position of Wicklow County Council was made clear, in that crossings would not be maintained because they "do not comply with guidelines that the department has issued to us around crossings".



The Arklow Pride crossing.

bers going forward."

Cllr Leonard stated her desire to see the reinstatement of Arklow's Pride crossing, which was the first permanent crossing of its kind in the Republic of Ireland.

"I think, if it hadn't been put in at all, it would be a different ballgame altogether, but we did put

2024 – 2026

2024-2025 – Community Leadership

Continued community leadership, GALAS Award nominations, and sustained advocacy for LGBTQIA+ visibility across County Wicklow and beyond.

2026 – Education, Innovation and Awareness

Wicklow Pride® rebranded to the Wicklow Pride® Foundation, a not-for-profit social enterprise which is volunteer led, as it has always been over the 12 years. Focus on education, innovation, and hate crime awareness. Collaboration with Gardaí and community partners to create safer, more inclusive spaces.



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Norris unveils artwork to kick off Wicklow Pride



Louise Byrne presents Senator David Norris with a LGBT bracelet at the launch of the LGBT pride festival in Arklow

4 Jul 2015 12:00 AM

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There was great excitement in Arklow on Monday evening as Senator David Norris was in town to unveil a unique and specially commissioned piece of sculpture for the first countywide Wicklow Pride Festival.

Major Achievements

- Founded in 2014 by Dave Thomas and Patrick Bracken
- First official Pride and Transgender flag raisings
- Marriage Equality campaign support
- Ireland's first permanent Pride Rainbow Crossing
- Wicklow's first Pride Parade
- COVID-19 community support initiatives
- Multiple GALAS Award nominations - 2015, 2024, 2025, 2026
- National and European collaborations
- Recognition awards and ongoing advocacy





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Contact Us

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Dave Thomas - Cofounder/Director Peter C Murray - Chairperson Louise Byrne - Founding Member/Social Media Nikki Byrne - Founding Member/Events
Patrick Bracken - Cofounder/Company Secretary



WICKLOW



PRIDE[®]

FOUNDATION

COUNTYWIDE SINCE 2014