



Wicklow Pride® Foundation Limited

Official Media Pack 2026

A Grassroots Community Movement Built on Inclusion, Equality & Pride Since
2014

The Story of Wicklow Pride®

Wicklow Pride® began in 2014 as a grassroots community initiative created to bring visibility, inclusion, equality, and community support to LGBTQIA+ people across County Wicklow. At a time when many LGBTQIA+ people in smaller towns and rural communities still experienced isolation, invisibility, discrimination, and fear, Wicklow Pride® emerged as a positive and community-led movement focused on creating safer spaces, meaningful representation, public celebration, advocacy, education, and solidarity. From its earliest beginnings, Wicklow Pride® worked to create events and initiatives that welcomed everyone — LGBTQIA+ people, families, allies, young people, older people, disabled communities, local businesses, artists, performers, community organisations, and the wider public. What started as a small local movement evolved into one of County Wicklow's recognised Pride initiatives, supporting inclusion, equality, accessibility, community development, arts and culture, safeguarding, advocacy, and awareness projects. Today, Wicklow Pride® Foundation Limited continues that work as a not-for-profit organisation committed to ensuring that inclusion, dignity, diversity, accessibility, and human rights remain central to community life throughout Wicklow and beyond.



“Wicklow Pride® was never just about one event or one parade. It was about building visibility, dignity, equality and community for people who often felt forgotten or unseen.”

— Dave Thomas, Cofounder & Director

A Grassroots Movement

Wicklow Pride® remains proudly grassroots at its core. The organisation has always relied on community participation, volunteers, local support, partnerships, and collective action to create positive change. Its activities have included Pride festivals, public parades, educational initiatives, disability inclusion advocacy, youth engagement, safeguarding work, arts and culture projects, awareness campaigns, fundraising initiatives, community outreach, and public representation. Wicklow Pride® has worked to ensure Pride remains accessible, welcoming, inclusive, family-friendly, and connected to local communities.



“Community is at the heart of everything Wicklow Pride® stands for. We believe Pride should be welcoming, accessible, respectful and empowering for everyone.”

— Peter C. Murray, Chairperson

Visibility, Inclusion & Community Impact

Over the years, Wicklow Pride® has helped create important spaces for visibility, celebration, dialogue, representation, education, and support. Its public events and outreach activities have welcomed people from diverse communities and backgrounds, helping to strengthen understanding, inclusion, accessibility, and solidarity. Wicklow Pride® continues to support:

- LGBTQIA+ visibility and equality
- Disability inclusion and accessibility
- Youth engagement and safer spaces
- Arts, culture and creative expression
- Safeguarding and wellbeing
- Anti-discrimination and human rights
- Community partnerships and outreach
- Family-friendly Pride events and celebrations



Media, Governance & Future Vision

Wicklow Pride® Foundation Limited operates as a not-for-profit organisation with a strong commitment to governance, safeguarding, equality, inclusion, accessibility, transparency, and community responsibility. The organisation has developed extensive governance and policy frameworks covering:

- Equality & Inclusion
- Disability Rights & Accessibility
- Children First Safeguarding
- Trans Rights & Human Rights
- Volunteer Standards
- Health & Safety
- Financial Accountability
- Ethical Sponsorship & Governance

Looking to the future, Wicklow Pride® aims to continue expanding its work through community partnerships, sponsorship, fundraising, youth programmes, awareness campaigns, cultural initiatives, accessibility improvements, and public advocacy.

“Wicklow Pride® belongs to the community. Its strength has always come from people standing together to create a more equal, compassionate and inclusive society.”

— Dave Thomas, Cofounder & Director



WICKLOW PRIDE FESTIVAL
29th June to 4th July
Fostering Diversity, Inclusion and Equality for All
Events Programme

SATURDAY 4TH JULY FESTIVAL IN THE PARK
FROM MIDDAY TO 6.00PM
The festival closes with a family fun day in the Park on Arklow's Main Street.

With Giggles the Clown, Music, Face Painting, The Vault Youth Musicians D'uke Box & Arkadia & Friction, Bouncy Castle, Tug-of-War Challenge, Urban Splash Game, Hot Food at the BBQ, Cake Sale, a Performance from Sweet Alibi, East Coast FM Cruisers, DJ, Competitions, Chalk Art, Buntings being made, Community Stalls, Hair Braiding and lots more.

This Festival invites every community group in the County of Wicklow to participate in this colourful celebration of what community really means.

FROM 8.00PM TO LATE
The Wicklow Pride Festival party continues at Sally O'Brien's Bar & Nightclub, Main Street Arklow with Music and a Performance from the amazing China White.

For more information, please see our facebook page www.facebook.com/wicklowpridefestival
Or e-mail wicklowpridefestival@gmail.com telephone 0851095423.

Wicklow Pride Festival 2016 - Bringing the Community together to celebrate as One

Wicklow County Council
Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin

WICKLOW PRIDE FESTIVAL
29th June to 4th July
Fostering Diversity, Inclusion and Equality for All
Events Programme

MONDAY 29TH JUNE - 7.00PM
Festival Launch in the Park & Bandstand on Arklow's Main Street, with festival patron Senator David Norris. Entertainment and the unveiling of a commissioned plaque sculpture and lots more, followed by the official opening of the Festival's "Bunting Project" Exhibition.

TUESDAY 30TH
Fostering Children
The opportunity to learn what it takes to be a Carer. Hear personal stories and experiences from Foster Carers.
Venue: Sunbeam House, Main Street, Arklow.
Time: 7.00pm to 9.00pm.
Reserve your place by calling: 086 166 4320

Flash Mob Rehearsals
Learn the dance moves and be ready for the 'secret' surprise Flash Mob somewhere in Wicklow! With www.fridanceclub.com
Venue: The new Community Centre (formerly Parochial Hall) in Wicklow Town.
Time: Two Rehearsal Options. 3.00pm to 4.15pm & 7.00pm to 8.15pm
To reserve your place call: 086 173 8272

Belly Dancing
A really fun, happy workshop taught by Master qualified instructor and dancer Etoile de la mer. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a big smile!
Venue: Arklow Bay Hotel
Time: 7.00pm to 8.00pm
Reserve your place now by calling 086 166 4320

WEDNESDAY 1ST
Dealing with Bullying
This will be a positive, non-judgmental experience for all involved. Facilitated by Dolores Martin. Employed by Social Care Training Ireland, Dolores has a Master's Degree in Child, Youth and Family Studies.
Venue: Sunbeam House, Main Street, Arklow.
Time: 7.00pm to 9.00pm
Reserve your place by calling: 086 166 4320

THURSDAY 2ND
First Responders from Arklow
Arklow Community First Responders have been actively fundraising to place life-saving defibrillators in Arklow. This workshop provides lifesaving CPR skills and how to use a defibrillator.
Venue: Sunbeam House, Main Street, Arklow.
Time: 7.00pm to 9.00pm
Reserve your place by calling: 086 166 4320

FRIDAY 3RD
Youth Workshop on Sexuality
Open to all young people aged up to 21 years old. This interactive workshop brings an understanding to issues around sexuality. Facilitated by Shoutout.
Venue: Vault youth centre, Arklow.
Time: 7.00pm to 9.00pm.
Reserve your place by calling: 086 166 4320

Media & Contact Information

Wicklow Pride® Foundation Limited

Website: www.wicklowpride.eu

Chairperson: chairpersonwicklowpride@proton.me

Director: directorwicklowpride@proton.me

County Wicklow, Ireland

Wicklow Pride® continues to welcome media engagement, sponsorship partnerships, community collaboration, volunteer participation, advocacy partnerships, and opportunities that support equality, inclusion, accessibility, arts, culture, and human rights.