

### **‘Wexford’s Biodiversity promoted through Art’**

Young artists from schools all around County Wexford received their awards for the Wexford County Council Annual Artwork Competition 2024 in the County Hall on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June. The artwork competition is an initiative run by the Environment Section of Wexford County Council in conjunction with Wexford Naturalists’ Field Club.

The theme of this year’s competition was ‘The Wildlife of Hedgerows.’ Councillor Pip Breen, Cathaoirleach Wexford County Council, presented prizes to 40 school children representing both primary and secondary schools.

Councillor Pip Breen stated ‘that the aim of the competition was to raise awareness of the importance of Wexford’s environment and to encourage all to explore its uniqueness as something to be valued and cherished. Hedgerows are precious habitats made up of native trees, shrubs, and flowers. They form a network of wildlife corridors across our landscape, providing food and shelter for insects, birds, and mammals’.

He encouraged all, to further explore Wexford’s magnificent hedgerows throughout all the seasons and said ‘in Autumn the flowers of the ivy provide a critical supply of nectar for insects and the hedgerow offers safe places for mammals to hibernate. Even in Winter deadwood provides nesting and breeding sites for insects and fruits and berries offer a vital source of food for birds and mammals. Summer brings warmer weather and hedgerows continue to support biodiversity. Caterpillars of moths and butterflies feed on the hedgerow plants’.

He stated that ‘The artwork displayed here today reminds, us all to look after our environment, a precious legacy for generations to come. We all have a role to play in learning more about biodiversity and protecting the natural heritage of Wexford.’

Councillor Breen thanked Don Conroy for providing the colouring sheet and thanked Wexford Naturalists’ Field Club for supporting the competition and sponsoring birdboxes. He also praised the young artists present and encouraged them to maintain a healthy respect for the environment as part of their lives.

The overall winner from Primary Schools was Ella Dundon, Our Lady of Lourdes National School, Bunclody and the overall winner from Secondary Schools was Júlía Ásmundsdóttir of Colaiste an Átha Kilmuckridge. The winning artwork was displayed in County Hall.

Prizes were also presented for the Snap into Action Competition, which is open to both schools and community groups. This competition encourages people from all walks of life to take action against litter.

Kilmyshall National School received first prize in the Snap Into Action School Competition and received a prize for €500. Wexford Educate Together National School and Caim National School were presented with runner up award of €250.

Enniscorthy Tidy Towns were the winners in the Snap Into Action Community Group Competition and received a prize of €500. Tomhaggard Clean Coasts Group and Kilmuckridge Tidy Towns were presented with runner up award of €250.

Councillor Pip Breen congratulated all involved and praised the groups for all their voluntary work in Keeping Wexford Beautiful.

Full List of Artwork Winners

<b>Category</b>	<b>Prize</b>	<b>Name of student</b>	<b>School Name</b>
<b>Junior Infants</b>	1st prize	Freddie Bowe	Ballyduff National School
	2nd prize	Saoirse Ryan	Castlebridge National School
	3rd prize	Sophia Gallagher	Ballyduff National School
	Highly Commended	Grace Dermody	Danescastle National School
	Highly Commended	Aoife Kennedy	Scoil Naomh Maadhóg, Ferns
<b>Senior Infants</b>	1st prize	Áine Redmond	Ballymurn National School
	2nd prize	Caragh Masterson Nolan	St Kevin's N.S ,Tara Hill
	3rd prize	Amelia Foley	Clongeen National School
	Highly Commended	Laura Duncan	Screen National School
	Highly Commended	Aoibheann Doyle	Marshalstown National School
<b>1st &amp; 2nd Class</b>	1st prize	Nancy O' Keefe	Marshalstown National School
	2nd prize	Kaylee Rose Lejawa	Scoil Naomh Maadhóg, Ferns
	3rd prize	Sophia Earle	Ballyduff National School
	Highly Commended	Emily Ryan	St Kevin's National School, Tara Hill
	Highly Commended	Mason Doyle	Glenbrien National School
<b>3rd &amp; 4th Class</b>	1st prize	Erin Roche	Ballyduff National School
	2nd prize	Rachael Gahan	Scoil Naomh Maadhóg, Ferns
	Joint 3rd prize	Méabh Maguire	Scoil Naomh Maadhóg, Ferns
	Joint 3rd prize	Faye Bobrov	St Kevin's National School, Tara Hill
	Highly Commended	Mya Joshua	St Kevin's National School, Tara Hill
	Highly Commended	Nina Redmond	Scoil Naomh Maadhóg, Ferns
<b>5th &amp; 6th Class</b>	1st prize	Nicole Rossiter	Piercestown National School
	2nd prize	Leah Denby	Scoil Naomh Maadhóg, Ferns
	Joint 3rd prize	Mila Colfer	Danescastle National School
	Joint 3rd prize	Ruth Fenlon	Marshalstown National School
	Highly Commended	Ruairi Bates	Piercestown National School
	Highly Commended	Kiara Lacey	Piercestown National School
<b>1st - 3rd year</b>	1st prize	Noah Cleer	Good Counsel College, New Ross
	Joint 2nd prize	Cillian McCarthy	St Peter's College, Wexford
	Joint 2nd prize	Charlie Silva	St Peter's College, Wexford
	Joint 3rd prize	Gabriel O' Byrne	St Peter's College, Wexford
	Joint 3 <sup>rd</sup> prize	Karyna Vykrovska	Colaiste an Atha, Kilmuckridge
	Highly Commended	Clarissa Robbertse	Colaiste an Atha, Kilmuckridge
	Highly Commended	Ariana Boland	Colaiste an Atha, Kilmuckridge
<b>4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> year</b>	1st prize	Joanne Carroll	Colaiste an Atha, Kilmuckridge
	2nd prize	Piero Raferty	St Peter's College, Summerhill
	3rd prize	Cormac Deane	St Peter's College, Wexford
	Highly Commended	Alex Murphy Hughes	St Peter's College, Wexford
<b>Overall Winner Primary School</b> Ella Dundon Our Lady of Lourdes National School, Bunclody			

**Overall Winner Secondary School** Júlía Rós Ásmundsdóttir  
Kilmuckridge

Colaiste an Atha,

**Snap Into Action Primary School Winners**

**Winner** Kilmyshall National School

**Runner Up** Caim National School

**Runner Up** Wexford Educate Together National School

**Snap Into Action Community Group Winners**

**Winner** Enniscorthy Tidy Towns

**Runner Up** Kilmuckridge Tidy Towns

**Runner Up** Tomhaggard Clean Coasts Group

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