

2019 WISHLIST

THE COUNTY'S LEADERS OUTLINE THEIR WISHES FOR 2019

Ireland approaches 2019 in a state of uncertainty, with the possibility of a no deal Brexit looming. What then can Wicklow expect from the next 12 months? We know there will most likely not be a general election, after Fianna Fail agreed to maintain the confidence and supply relationship with Fine Gael until 2020.

Locally however, the New Year will see the start in earnest of election campaigns across the county as we gear up for the local elections in May. Healthcare and the housing/homeless crisis

are likely to be the headline issues again while the push for action on climate change continues. Wicklow Times contacted Wicklow's five TDs and asked what their hopes and

priorities are for 2019. We also spoke to Wicklow Chief Executive, Frank Curran who completed his first full year in the job in 2018. Minister for Health, Fine Gael's Simon



Evan Wylie, Ross O'Brien, Jill Corrigan, and Isaac Cullen are pictured at the Wicklow Archers Awards Night in Shoreline, Greystones.



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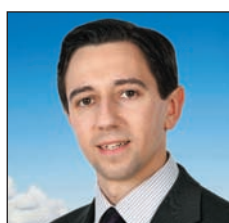
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Harris, said 2018 was 'an extremely busy year but a positive one.' "I was pleased to be able to help a number of clubs and organisations



Minister Simon Harris

throughout County Wicklow to secure Sports Capital funding and this will be a priority for me again in 2019. I will be concentrating on delivering enhanced mental health services, disability services, housing supply, community resources, primary care

centres and schools over the year ahead.

"In 2019, I am looking forward to the opening of our GP Out of Hours Service for North Wicklow. Building Primary Care capacity in the community is an absolute priority for me. I was delighted to turn the sod on the Bray Primary Care centre this year. The Greystones and Arklow Primary Care Centres will also be advancing in 2019. I will continue to work with Wicklow County Council and the Department to bring much needed housing to Wicklow. A key priority for most Wicklow Residents in 2019 will be a plan for reducing the traffic congestion on the N11."

Continues on Page 3

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What's Happening...

Brockagh Resource Centre

The Brockagh Resource Centre wishes to thank everyone who has supported them through joining classes, using computers, donating to fundraisers, and booking facilities throughout 2018. The Centre will re-open at 9am on Monday 7th January 2019. For details of ongoing activities see www.brockaghresourcecentre.ie/events. You can also 'friend' them on Facebook or Twitter. To add your name to the database and be kept informed about events, phone 0404-45600 or email brockaghresourcecentre@gmail.com.

Celebrating Phil Lynott & Thin Lizzy

On January 4th, Kings Call for the Homeless presents 'Celebrating Phil Lynott & Thin Lizzy' in the Hot Spot in Greystones. Come along and enjoy an intimate celebration of Phil Lynott's life. You will get the full blown rock vibe on the main stage with 'Thinner Lizzy' as well as the softer, acoustic experience in the informal living room. Immerse yourself in the art, music and poetry of Phil Lynott and his wide repertoire of musical styles including punk, metal & trad. In keeping with Phil's legendary generosity of spirit and in parallel with the bleak times in which he rose to fame - proceeds from this event will go directly to a local WH 5Loaves/Arc Housing & Living Lives in Bray. Doors open 7pm Tickets €15 / all donations welcome.

Greystones Active Retirement Association

The members and committee are taking a well-earned rest over Christmas and will resume activities in January 2019.
Aqua aerobics: Shoreline. Monday 7th January 2019. 12noon-1pm.
Bowls: Kilian House Family Centre. Tuesday 8th January 2019. 10.30am.
Bingo: Kilian House Family Centre. Tuesday 8th January 2019. 2.30pm.
Keep Fit: Kilian House Family Centre. Monday 14th January 2019. 1pm - 2pm.
Art: Kilian House Family Centre. Monday 14th January 2019. 2.30pm.
The first coffee morning of the New Year will be held on Friday 25th January 2019 at 10.30am.

Kilcoole Policing Clinic

The Kilcoole Policing Clinic takes place each Wednesday evening in Kilcoole Community Centre, from 6pm to 8pm. Garda Molly Corbet and/or Garda Alan Thompson will be in attendance. Drop in for crime prevention advice, get a form stamped, and most other Garda station services.



Pictured: Organisers of Wicklow Hospice Strictly make a donation to Sinead Tarmey of the Wicklow Hospice in the Arkow Bay Hotel.

Roundwood Cancer Support officially launched

Roundwood Cancer Support was launched in Roundwood Parish Centre on Saturday 15th December by Professor Paul Brown Consultant Haematologist in St James' Hospital.



Pictured: At the launch of Roundwood Cancer Support were Fr. Owen Lynch, Mary Margaret Molloy, Janette Kavanagh and Professor Paul Browne, consultant haematologist at St. James' Hospital.

Roundwood Cancer Support is a newly set up organisation in Roundwood and will be a registered Charity. The aim is to provide practical help and emotional support to those affected by cancer and their families, including advice and transport to hospital for their various treatments. They are there to lend a helping hand and a listening ear when you need them.

The group is very grateful to the committee of Roundwood Parish Centre who has given them the use of two rooms in the centre which has a separate access to ensure privacy for visitors. One of the rooms will be their welcoming room and the other a relaxation room. People have been very generous in organising fundraising events and donating to this very worthy cause. If anyone would like to help in any way whether it be to organise a fundraiser or to volunteer to be a driver please contact any of the committee either by email at Roundwoodcs@gmail.com or telephone them on 0876062072.

Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy meeting

National and Regional Plans dictate where our houses should be built, and what investments should be made in our roads, amenities and businesses.

Co Wicklow PPN is inviting community & voluntary groups to find out about the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and how its proposals could impact on Co Wicklow communities.

A meeting will take place on Saturday 12th January from 10.30am to 12 noon in Luisne, Kilcoole. Judy Osborne, a local qualified town planner and Ian Lumley, An Taisce Advocacy Officer will provide information about the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and advice on the most effective way for communities to have their say on the decisions that will affect their quality of life.

Groups are asked to register their attendance by Wednesday 9th January 2019 by Emailing: countywicklowppn@gmail.com or Tel: 087 189 5145.

Shankill Classical Music Club

The January meeting will be on the second Wednesday of the month - Wednesday 9th, in Shankill Old Folks' Centre, Lower Rd, Shankill, 7.45pm. Visitors welcome (2 euro). Just come along, or see further details of the club on www.shankillclassical.org, or ring or text John on 087-2109175.

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2019 WISHLIST

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Minister Andrew Doyle of Fine Gael said, "As we approach another year and reflect



Minister Andrew Doyle

on the year just passed, it is normal and natural to take stock and set down priorities for ourselves personally and in our work/profession. As public representatives and policy makers our priorities are guided by the needs of our citizens and residents in the state. So we must address the areas that need attention the most, the provision of a sufficient amount of housing, tailored to the various needs, i.e. social, affordable,

student, in the right locations and at the appropriate price point. Our health service needs continuous improving, a lot works well, but there are bottlenecks and the vision as set down in Sláinte needs the full co-operation of all stakeholders with targets set out clearly. "Other, less obvious areas I would like to see us focus on and raise awareness of include the whole area of cyber/on-line bullying and abuse where our young people are particularly vulnerable."

"The national crisis that is on all our minds for 2019 is Brexit,"



Pat Casey, TD

said Fianna Fail's Pat Casey. "The implications of the ongoing shambles that is the response by the United Kingdom to the realities involved in Brexit could have devastating effects on Ireland. In Agri-business, tourism and trade our growing economy with employment and public investment could be seriously damaged if the current British attitude to Brexit continues.

"Locally I am still of the belief that housing remains at crisis levels in Wicklow. The lack of affordable, rental and social housing in all areas of Wicklow are creating stress and hardships on too many Wicklow families. I hope that 2019 sees a radical increase in the delivery of homes for people in Wicklow. That will be a measure in how Government is responding. Failure next year will have serious consequences in my view."

Fianna Fail Deputy, Stephen Donnelly said



Stephen Donnelly, TD

his wish list could be broken down into three main categories. Health: "We need to finally give the public what they voted for and ensure abortion services are made available as quickly and safely as possible. We must start treating patients with real compassion; that means slashing waiting lists, increasing access to life-saving medicines and shortening emergency response times. We also need to improve pay and conditions for our hard-working doctors and nurses."

Housing: "We simply

need to build more homes. We need private accommodation, affordable houses and social houses. The Government has to start taking this crisis seriously."

Community: "Wicklow is an incredible place to live. I'd love to see us make the most of all the amenities we have. To do that, we need greater investment in disability services like Bray Lakers. We also have to improve our public transport with extra trains and buses, as well as park and ride services. Traffic must be tackled on the N11 and safety issues fixed on the N81. We can capitalise on the beauty of our county by developing Greenways around Blessington, Greystones and Arklow. And we can protect Wicklow for future generations by building flood defences around Arklow."

Deputy John Brady of Sinn Féin said "Housing is still cur-

rently the biggest issue in the County and will continue to be in 2019 and unfortunately homelessness is continuing to grow. An affordable housing scheme and permanent emergency homeless accommodation are needed and must be prioritised in 2019. "Our Health service remains in trouble in terms of waiting lists,



John Brady, TD

over-crowding and staff shortages, with a crisis in every sector of our health service. Slow progress is being made in addressing the serious traffic problem on the N11/M11. This needs to be fast tracked to end the nightmare traffic jams people face daily. The N81 upgrade project needs to be prioritised and the funding for the project restored.

"In 2019 recreational facilities need to be progressed such as a

swimming pool and additional playing pitches in West Wicklow. The progression of the 50 acre sports campus on the Old Fassaroe lands in Bray that I have championed. I will also continue to work for the upgrade of the running track in Arklow, along with homes for Vartry Rowing Club and Rathnew Boxing Club."

Wicklow County Council Chief Executive Frank Curran said that "The delivery of Social and Affordable Housing will continue to be a priority. Over 1,400 social housing units will be delivered between 2018 and 2021. Approximately 50 per cent of these will be through Direct Build with the remainder provided through turnkey solutions, Public Private Partnerships, Approved Housing Bodies and in private housing estates through Part V of the Planning and Development Act.

"The development of infrastructure will also be a priority. A contract has been signed between Wicklow County Council and ARUP Consulting Engineers to progress

the Improvement Scheme for the N11/M11 between Junction 4 (M50/M11) to Junction 14 (Coyne's Cross).

"Plans for the new Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant have been submitted to An Bord Pleanála for approval. Funding has been secured from the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund for a new Public Transport Bridge over the River Dargle in Bray, a new library and upgrade to Fitzwilliam Square in Wicklow Town and upgrades to the Public Realm and Courthouse building in Arklow.



Frank Curran, Council Chief Executive

"The Florentine Centre in Bray is progressing which will provide quality retail units, restaurants and a new cinema in the heart of Bray Town Centre."

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Garda Superintendent Paul Hogan with his family Adam, Mary, and Ben, at his recent retirement party at Lynham's of Laragh

Majority unhappy with commute

A third of Co. Wicklow commuters would consider a lower salary if that meant not having to commute outside the county, according to the recent Wicklow commuter survey.

The commuter survey was completed by 6,826 people during a two-week period. Almost 26,000 Wicklow residents are working outside the county and 44% of Greystones residents work in Dublin.

Seventy-four percent of respondents reported that they were either 'unhappy' or 'very unhappy' with their commute for work, while only 8% said they were 'happy' or 'very happy'.

The majority of commuters who work outside Co. Wicklow said they would be likely or very likely to consider switching to a job in Co. Wicklow if one was available.

The unhappiest commuters are those who

travel by road either as car drivers / car passengers or by bus. People who leave home before 8am or travel for more than 45 minutes are also likely to be dissatisfied with their commute.

The commuters most willing to consider working in County Wicklow are those who travel by motorcycle/scooter or by train/Luas. A commute that starts before 7 AM or lasts for more than an hour also increases the chances that a person would prefer to work in County Wicklow.

Responding to the survey results, Cllr Gerry Walsh, Chairperson of the Wicklow Economic Development and Enterprise Support

Strategic Policy Committee (SPC), said "I have especially pressed the urgent need to attract businesses into the County to reverse the current commuting trend. The range of particular skill sets in the working Wicklow population could potentially be used to attract potential businesses into the IDA site in Greystones and into other employment development sites across Wicklow. As a result of a meeting earlier this week there is a significant development in interest on this site and an announcement is expected early next year from the IDA

"There has been increased concerns expressed by North

Wicklow residents at the peak times traffic congestion on the N11 / M11 route. Daily commuters are forced to leave their homes earlier in order to avoid the traffic congestion, which is having a detrimental effect on people's quality of life. Some motorists are using unsuitable minor local roads in an effort to beat the gridlock, which is causing inconvenience to local residents. The current situation can be further exacerbated following a traffic collision on the N11 or on other side routes which was raised with the Garda Chief Superintendent for Wicklow at last week's joint policing committee meeting."

'People don't come here to die, they come here to live'

Saint Joseph's Shankill recently welcomed families, staff, volunteers and supporters to celebrate the extraordinary accolade of being recognised as the 2018 Nursing Home Ireland; Excellence in Dementia Care Award.

Elaine Byrne Services Manager at Saint Joseph's explained; "At Saint Joseph's we cannot change the devastating effects dementia has on people and their families. But we can and have changed the way we care for people. We want to share our knowledge and also learn more. We have a compassionate and passionate team who ensure everyone that lives here receives the best care possible."

Speaking at the event, Norma Sheehan, Director of Nursing at Saint Joseph's said; "Change in any form is difficult, but to change for the better and make a real difference to people's lives is always wonderfully worthwhile, no matter

how arduous the journey." Inspired by David Sheard to embrace the teachings of his international company, Dementia Care Matters, Saint Joseph's now proudly holds a level one Quality of Life, Butterfly Home. The team also work with the Irish Hospice Foundation.

Minister Mary Mitchell O'Connor, attended the event, and praised the team at Saint Joseph's commenting that the feeling of love she experiences every time she visits Saint Joseph's is truly inspirational and very moving. As a part of the event, Deborah Veale and Mari O'Leary were recognised for their outstanding philanthropic contribution to Saint Joseph's through

the 'Irish Fashion Collective'.

This was followed by all the nominees and finalists of the 2018 NHI Awards being presented to the audience and included; Janice Reyes and Ann Bolger both nominated in the Registered Nurse of the Year category, Jim Leahy, nominee for Ancillary worker of the year award, Sinead Moran, nominated for Health Care Assistant of the year and Catherine Mullen, activities coordinator at Saint Joseph's nominated for the Social and Recreational Award.

The Saint Joseph's team were finalists in three categories namely, Norma Sheehan for the Director of Nursing of the Year award and Aldo de

Guzman for End of Life Care Award, and they were awarded the Excellence in Dementia Care Award on the awards night in Citywest hotel.

Elaine Byrne commented: "We are so proud of what we have achieved and the care we know everybody enjoys. People are loved and cherished, they feel needed and know they matter to us and we are all a part of one family. We are privileged to work in their home ensuring that they know they truly matter to us. People don't come here to die, they come here to live. Being recognised by our industry peers for the care we give is of course very special to us all."



Cllr Jim Gildea, Sinead Moran, Ann Bolger, minister Mary Mitchell O'Connor, Norma Sheehan, Janice Reyes, Catherine Mullen, Aidan O'Toole accepting on behalf of James Leahy and Aldo de Guzman - and that doesn't include all the rest of the team that we're all part of winning Excellence in dementia care award. Picture credit: Ger Holland

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1,349 property sales for €453m recorded in county Wicklow

The sale of Craignathan in South Place, The Burnaby was the largest one-off property transaction recorded in Wicklow this year.

Data from the Property Price Register, analysed by property website MyHome.ie, shows that the Greystones property sold for €2.4 million in March.

Other large one-off sales included Kilgarron House in Enniskerry for €1.95 million in July, Winton Grove in Kilmacanogue for €1.456 million in April, Lismara in Greystones for €1.39 million in February and 6 South Place, Greystones in May for €1.185 million.

In total there were 15 sales recorded in Wicklow so far this year for a seven figure sum.

As of the Property Price Register update of December 5th, just over €453.3 million had been spent on property so far this year in Wicklow.

There were 1,349 sales recorded as of that date, which still has some way to go to surpass the 1,665 transactions recorded in the county in 2017.

The Managing Director of MyHome.ie, Angela Keegan said uncertainty over the outcome of Brexit negotiations was impacting the market, especially at the upper end.

"That uncertainty is hitting the upper end more I think while the impact of the tightening of the Central Bank lending rules and an increase in stock means house price inflation generally, is slowing around the country. In Q1 asking prices nationally were up 9.5%. By the end of Q3 the rate of inflation had slowed to 5.9% year on year."

"Double or high single digit inflation is not sustainable so the current trend is positive for the property market as a whole."

"I think 2018 will be remembered as the year when the stock of both new builds and second-hand homes turned the corner. Second-hand stock nationally is up 6% while the number of new home schemes continues to rise" she said.



Cllr Pat Kennedy and Karen Kelly make a presentation to Denis Carter at the Rathdrum Pride of Place celebration night in Jacob's Well

Kilcoole Main Street saved from 'planning madness'

An Bord Pleanala has rejected the proposed development of houses and retail units on Kilcoole Main Street and West of it at Bullford.

The 'strategic housing development' was to consist of 267 residential units and five number retail units.

Speaking with *Wicklow Times*, local Kilcoole Independent councillor Tom Fortune described the decision by An Bord Pleanala as "good news. As proposed, the development would have destroyed the village of Kilcoole," he said. "At a public meeting organised recently by myself and Cllr Grainne McLoughlin the community were outraged at what was proposed due to the way it would impact the village," said Cllr Fortune.

"The reasons behind the decision to refuse are 1. Sewage Capacity 2. protection of the Murrough infrastructure. 3. Building on land zoned for open space. 4. Non Compliance with the local area plan - we need to explore this more and discuss it with Wicklow County Council.

"A key issue was the road to the rear of the proposed development, that was part of a plan submitted a number of

years ago but not included in this latest plan. This issue was also highlighted in a submission from the CEO of WCC to this current proposal. Also issues such as the general road infrastructure, parking, health and safety, design of development."

Cllr Fortune said it would be "planning madness" to have allowed this project proceed without this road being built in advance.

"Also," he continued, "there is a need for a proper town centre to be part of any development. There were a number of very serious concerns submitted in over 140 submissions from the community which appear to have been ignored by the Bord. This makes no sense to us and needs full review. Any further application must go through Wicklow Council for full review with the community."

Cllr Fortune concluded "this is a good decision, however there are still a lot of outstanding questions. As a community we will review the decision in the new year, liaise with WCC and



Cllr Tom Fortune

examine what happens going forward."

Also welcoming the decision, Cllr Derek Mitchell said "I objected to this as did many others as it did not have an adequate appearance on the main street of the large village. Unfortunately this was not one of the Bord's refusal points. It was refused because the sewerage facilities are not good enough in the area and 12 houses were to be built on land zoned Open Space."

In its decision to refuse permission, An Bord Pleanala stated "It is considered that the proposed development would be premature by reference to the existing deficiencies

in the provision of sewerage and water supply facilities and the period within which this constraint may reasonably be expected to cease and would be prejudicial to public health. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area".

The Board stated that the "absence of any assessment of the potential for effects from the deficiencies in the existing municipal sewer network and treatment system" meant that it "cannot be satisfied, beyond reasonable scientific doubt, that the proposed development, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, would not adversely affect the integrity of these European sites, the Murrough SPA and the Murrough Wetlands SAC in view of the sites' conservation objectives".

Fourteen of the residential units were proposed to be built on lands zoned open space which, The Board said "would materially contravene an objective indicated in the Greystones-Delgany and Kilcoole Local Area Plan 2013-2019. It is considered that the inclusion of these houses, within an area of land in which residential development is not permitted, would not be in accordance with Section 3 of the Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act, 2016. Accordingly, the Board is not in a position to grant permission for these residential units."

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Memory Lane Music Group

Memory Lane Music Group returns on Friday, 11th January, in St. Patrick's Parish Centre, Church Road, Greystones, from 11:30am. to 1:00pm. This weekly music group is for people with Alzheimer's and/or their carers. Singing can provide a way for people with dementia, and their carers, to socialise. They can express themselves and meet up with others in a fun and supportive group. Details from Fiona Lang, 086 8455256, and/or Michael Fisher, 087 9833931.

'WICKLOW WELCOMES' GROUP HOSTS COFFEE MORNING FOR GRAND HOTEL RESIDENTS

Last weekend Wicklow Welcomes, the group set up to offer aid to the residents of the direct provision centre in Wicklow Town, had its first event, a tea and coffee morning.

Invitees included all residents of the Grand Hotel and everyone who had contacted the group offering support. Organisers say that not everyone may have received an invitation due to the scale of interest which they say delighted

them but also caught them unprepared.

Despite the pouring rain about thirty of the residents came and over a hundred people from Wicklow attended to show their support. Many brought their families and several people brought

craft supplies and face painting kits and helped the children to make some lovely crafty items.

The church kindly loaned their hall for the event and some members of their entertainment team worked hard to serve tea and coffee to many

more people than were expected. Father Donal and Jack Kinkaid were both there, all the clergy of Wicklow unfailingly enthusiastic in their support for Wicklow Welcomes.

For many of the people living in the Grand Hotel

this was really the first time they had a chance to get to know some of the people of Wicklow. It is hoped that there will be more events like this in the coming months, and that they will be enthusiastically supported.

A spokesperson said, "Our new neighbours have plenty to offer, with several of them showing an interest in volunteering in the town, and they really only need a little friendliness from those around them to settle in as a productive and positive part of the community."

Last week Wicklow Welcome packs were distributed to each of the residents, to tell them a bit more about their new community, the history of the town and help orientate them to Wicklow. It is hoped to get a walking club off the ground in the coming weeks so that new neighbours can meet more members of the community and improve their English where needed, as well as see a bit more of their new town.

A spokesperson for Wicklow Welcomes said, "The next project that we are really excited about is a campaign featuring our new logo, and we have great hopes it will spread quickly as the people of Wicklow get behind us."

"Displaying this logo in our premises, on our cars or as a badge indicates this person or business is friendly. We want everyone coming to Wicklow from other parts of the world, whether as



Mandy Jackson and Adraina Panguene at the Wicklow Welcomes coffee morning



Simon Voigt at the Wicklow Welcomes coffee morning



Shanon O'Halloran, Sarah Voigt, Clodagh Egan, Naomi Fitzpatrick, Louise Rooney, and Suzy McDonald at the Wicklow Welcomes coffee morning in the De La Salle Pastoral Centre, Wicklow Town.

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RNLI volunteer gets award for 30 years of service

Last week saw history in the making when the RNLI awarded the 30-year long service badge to a member of Wicklow Lifeboat Crew.

The award went to John Sillery, Head Launcher at the station and he joined a very illustrious and small group of only two others who have received this award.

John joins his brother Terry, a senior crewmember on the All-weather lifeboat and Ciaran Doyle, Second Coxswain as the only holders of this award at Wicklow Lifeboat Station.

John joined Wicklow RNLI on 1st January 1989. He signed on as winchman on the shore-crew and is now the Head Launcher. He is in charge on the slip of all launching and recovery activities.

Lifeboat Operations Manager, Des Davitt, said "John has become an integral part of the team at Wicklow and his experience is so important to the smooth running of the station."

The Annual Service of Remembrance will take place on New Year's Day (Tuesday 1st January). The ceremony is held to remember past lifeboat crew, and all connected with the sea from Wicklow. The lifeboat will launch at 2pm and the crew will launch flowers and wreaths into the bay after a short ecumenical prayer. If anyone wishes to have flowers or

directions, finds English difficult or could just do with a smile.

"Many people have said that the level of support for this group by the people of Wicklow is unprecedented. That is something to be proud of.

We have an opportunity here to make Wicklow stand out for all the right reasons, to be a trail blazer and lead the way for the rest of Ireland. We started last week as we mean to go on. Well done to everyone involved."

wreaths launched at sea, they are welcome to drop them down to the lifeboat station from 1pm.



BRAY STUDENT SECURES PLACE IN NATIONAL POETRY ALOUD FINAL

A student from North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School reached the national final of the annual Poetry Aloud competition, organised by the National Library of Ireland (NLI) and Poetry Ireland, in partnership with UCC. The final took place at the National Library of Ireland.

Poetry Aloud is an annual poetry speaking competition for post-primary school students across the island of Ireland. Since its launch in 2007, it has grown enormously with more than 1,700 entries received in 2018. Charlie Roycroft Byrne from North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School in Bray, participated in the semi-finals which took place last month at the NLI, and saw 125 participants from 82 schools vie for a place in the final.

The final event saw 29 students from across the country compete in the junior, intermediate and senior categories for the Seamus Heaney Poetry Aloud Award. Each category winner received 300 as well as book tokens to the value of 300 for the winner's school library. An overall winner was chosen from the three category winners and received a further €200, the Seamus Heaney perpetual trophy.

The late Seamus Heaney was a significant

supporter of Poetry Aloud. In 2009, he was presented with the David Cohen Prize for Literature by the British Library. In addition to the main award, the winner of this prize each year nominates the recipient of a subsidiary prize. In nominating Poetry Aloud for the award, Seamus Heaney cited the extraordinary way in which the competition seeks to celebrate the joy of speaking and listening to poetry as well as the fact that there is a strong North-South dimension to the competition.

Speaking ahead of the final, Brid O'Sullivan of the NLI's Learning and Outreach Department, said: "Poetry Aloud aims to celebrate the art of poetry speaking and nurture the talented second-level students who practice it. This year, the prescribed poems and anthologies draw on a wide range of emotions and moments in Irish life and they have been truly brought to life by the participants. We are looking forward to welcoming stu-

dents from North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School back to the NLI to participate in the final and would like to extend our congratulations to all participants for making it this far."



CLlr Nicola Lawless, Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District, presenting the Greystones Eire Og Under 17 Football Team with their award to mark their success in winning the Wicklow County Minor A Football Championship 2018

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Pictured: Katarzyna Kasperkiewicz, Monika Kostka and Grzegorz Sala present Michael Nicholson and Colin Heslin with a donation of Polish books to Arklow Library.

Average rent for new tenancies increases by €59

According to the latest Rent Index from the Residential Tenancies Board (RTB), in the July - September period (Q3) of 2018, the standardised national average rent of new tenancies in County Wicklow was €1,195, up from €1,136 (+€59) one year earlier and down €2 on the previous quarter (Q2 2018).

The RTB Rent Index, which is compiled in conjunction with the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), is the authoritative guide to the Irish rental market. The Index shows that rent increases for existing tenancies (5.4%) were lower than those for new tenancies (8%) year-on-year. This indicates that Rent Pressure Zones are having a braking effect on the level of the increase. However, although rents are now at a record high, and the Irish rental market is experiencing unprecedented demand, the number of landlords is falling with a decline of 8,829 tenancies and 1,778 fewer landlords than in 2015.

Commenting on the latest Rent Index results, Rosalind Carroll, Director of the Residential Tenancies Board said: "Affordability still remains an issue for the rental market with continued economic, employment and population growth contributing to rising demand across the country. We can also see rents across the country have continued to increase year-on-year. The rate of rent inflation slowed this quarter somewhat, which we will continue to monitor in the months ahead. The importance of strong protections for tenants is underlined by the fact that the pace of rent increase under existing tenancies is well behind that of new tenancies, which shows us that Rent Pressure Zones are working much better within existing tenancies, but there is still more to do in respect of new tenancies. At the same time, it is a matter of deep concern that the number of landlords continues to decrease."



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Growing increase in numbers of working poor 'alarming'

Sinn Féin spokesperson for Social Protection John Brady TD has raised concerns at the growing number of people with jobs living in poverty, according to the CSO Survey & Income Living Conditions (SILC) figures released last week.

Raising the issue with the Taoiseach, Deputy Brady said "There are now 109,000 people with jobs living in poverty. This figure represents the working poor in Ireland and it is on the rise.

"There are now over 4,000 more people with a job at risk of poverty today than there were 12 months ago. This is an alarming statistic that the Government need to acknowledge.

"This lies in stark contrast with the Taoiseach's rhetoric that securing employment is the best route out of poverty. It clearly is not.

"It also flies in the face of An Taoiseach's drivel about Fine Gael representing those that get up early in the morning. These workers get up early every morning, yet they live in poverty."

Social Democrats Spokesperson for Children, Councillor Jennifer Whitmore, has called for a new national target of fully eliminating consistent child poverty over five years.

Cllr Whitmore made the call following the publication by the CSO of figures which show that the government is failing to reach its own targets to reduce rates of child

poverty.

Cllr Whitmore said "Today's CSO figures show a general trend of declining poverty rates. Consistent child poverty is down from 10.9% to 8.8%. However, this still means that about one in 11 children are in a low income household and routinely go without at least some basics.

"While the trend is going in the right direction, it falls very far short of the Government's own targets. The target set out in the government's Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures is to reduce consistent child poverty down to about 37,000 children by 2020. There is no hope that this target will be met. Today's figures show that the level is almost three times the national target with about 105,000 children remaining in consistent poverty.

"Consistent child poverty is something we should be ashamed of as a country. It has a lasting damaging effect on those who experience it and stores up huge problems for our country in the future. The targets we have set for ourselves were not ambitious enough to begin with yet we still can't manage to reach the 37,000 target.

"There needs to be a new national target of fully eliminating consistent child poverty over five years. It will never be resolved until there is a national plan that is led by An Taoiseach and until the national goal is to get rid of child poverty completely. This would necessitate a focus not just on income measures but also on costs faced by families which impact on children's daily lives."

Responding to the latest SILC figures the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP) says that the data demonstrates that there has been some modest improvement in poverty rates, with a decrease of just under three percentage points in the rate of consistent poverty.

However, it says, children and lone parents in particular continue to experience high levels of poverty and deprivation. This reflects the experience of the SVP, which received an average of 1,000 calls for help every day from worried families in the run up to Christmas. The Central Statistics Office is examining ways to improve the data collected on poverty and housing tenure.

Kieran Stafford, SVP National President said "The position of many people in private rented accommodation remains of grave concern. Increasing rents mean that households are going without essentials as they prioritise their rent payments over other expenses for fear of losing their homes. Many of the people we visit are paying high rents to live in sub-standard accommodation, often in a bad state of repair with poor heating and insulation because they have no alternative.

"Some Housing Assistance Payment tenants are paying top-ups to their landlords, which can be unsustainable in the long run, leaving families vulnerable to becoming homeless. The housing crisis is a scandal that continues to impact on every aspect of people's lives."

SVP welcome that the figures shows progress on the child poverty target, as almost 25,000 children were lifted out of consistent poverty between 2016 and 2017. However, almost 1 in 5 children are now growing up below the poverty line.

Funding available in 2019 for angling projects and events in Wicklow

Inland Fisheries Ireland's has launched its Sponsorship Programme for 2019 and is now inviting applications from suitable angling events and initiatives in Wicklow. The programme, which is one of the funding mechanisms of the National Strategy for Angling Development, awarded funding to 62 Irish angling events and 10 teams representing Ireland in overseas international events to the combined value of €30,000 in 2018.

In Wicklow, three initiatives were awarded funding as part of the programme. Leinster provincial Council was awarded funding for a 10th Boat Angling event in Wicklow Port and a Shore Angling Coaching event along the coastline in Wicklow while Wicklow Bay Sea Angling Club was awarded support for its Novice Angler Introduction to Boat Angling programme.

Applications are now being invited. The scheme will remain open for funding applications until January 18th 2019. See fisheriesireland.ie.

Independent

Charlie Keddy

Charlie Keddy wishes a Happy Birthday to all the unborn babies from this day on

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Happy Christmas to all still alive in 2018

2018 community funding tops €1.6 million

Seven Community Funding Schemes administered by Wicklow County Council have delivered in excess of €1.6m to 137 individual projects in 2018.

The CLAR (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) programme delivered €175,000 to 12 projects, while the Town and Village programme provided funding of €525,000 to seven projects.

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme provided a further €438,000 to seven projects and the Healthy Ireland Initiative assisted 14 projects with funding of €112,100.

The New Community Enhancement programme delivered €350,530 to 91 groups while a Festival Funding programme assisted six festivals in the county.

Acknowledging this significant investment in the county, the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Pat Vance, paid tribute to the staff in the Community, Cultural and Social Development directorate in the Council and to the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Michael Ring, TD and his officials.

Councillor Vance said that these projects, spread across different communities throughout the county, will significantly enhance a large number of towns and villages and he congratulated all those involved in all the projects.

Joining the Cathaoirleach in welcoming the funding, Mr Frank Curran, Chief Executive, added his own congratulations to everyone involved in the projects and said that Council staff will continue to work in partnership with all groups in the county to advance more projects in 2019.

27 NEW HOMES OPENED IN RATHDRUM AND ARKLOW

Twenty-seven new homes in Rathdrum and Arklow were officially last Tuesday in what was the first of many such events in the coming months and years as Wicklow County Council progresses its housing development programme.

Twenty new houses were opened at Avondale Heights in Rathdrum while seven apartments were unveiled in the Old Schoolhouse in Arklow. The ceremony was performed by Minister of State, Mr Andrew Doyle TD.

Speaking at the opening of the Rathdrum development, the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Pat Vance, said it was "the first of many in the pipeline for County Wicklow." The scheme, he said, would deliver a mix of energy efficient 1, 2 and 3-bedroom homes for families and individuals and pointed out that the eight one-bed units were fully disabled accessible and complete with wheelchair-ready wet rooms.

Cllr Vance added: "I recognise the serious challenge we face in terms of housing and a critical focus and priority has been firmly placed on responding to this challenge by Wicklow County Council through the development and implementation of the Social

Housing supply programme."

He stated: "Today heralds the first of many official openings that will take place over the coming months and years as Wicklow County Council vigorously progresses its development programme under the Rebuilding Ireland banner."

The social housing target for Wicklow over the course of 2018-2021, Cllr Vance said, sets an ambitious task, to deliver over 1300 additional homes under Build, Acquisition, Part V and Leasing schemes. He was confident that the Council was committed, energised and mobilised to deliver on that ambition.

Speaking at the opening of the Arklow scheme, Cllr Vance said the project saw the conversion of an existing, much-loved period property into seven new high efficiency 'A' rated homes. The apartments include three one-beds and four two-beds units.

All first-floor apartments have balconies with either mountain or sea



Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Pat Vance and Minister Andrew Doyle cut the tape at Avondale Heights during the official opening.

views while there is a triangular communal garden for the residents to congregate and socialise. The existing ornate facade and many original internal features have been retained.

Performing the official opening, Mr Andrew Doyle TD, Minister of State, said such events - particularly in his home county - highlighted the real progress on the ground being achieved by local authorities in addressing the challenges we face in the housing sector at this present time.

While new-build output

in 2017 in Wicklow may have been low, Minister Doyle said it must be recognised that a healthy pipeline of activity has been established over recent years and these schemes represented just two of a number of projects in Wicklow County Council's growing programme of development.

Mr Frank Curran, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, said that over the course of the next two years, the Council's programme is expected to deliver newly constructed homes for more than 400

households on the Council's social housing list.

The Council currently has 18 projects at various stages of construction and tendering, with funding of over €58m already sanctioned by the Department. A further 16 Schemes are under active consideration with a potential yield for a further 260 units by 2021.

The Council was also engaged with Approved Housing Bodies under the CALF and CAS schemes and with private developers who are delivering additional units under

Part V.

Mr Curran thanked the Minister and the Department for their assistance and also the Council's housing staff under Mr Joe Lane along with the elected members of Wicklow County Council for their support of the Housing Supply Programme.

Speakers praised the contractors involved in both projects - QMAC Construction in Rathdrum and Coyne Group in Arklow - pointing out the high quality of work and input.



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Suzanne O'Toole, Fionn O'Carroll, and Fergus O'Carroll are pictured at the presentation to the Greystones Eire Og Under 17 Football Team to mark their success in winning the Wicklow County Minor A Football Championship 2018.

'Press pause on Public Transport Privatisation'

Fianna Fáil's Stephen Donnelly has called for a five-year pause on the privatisation of public transport, including the 133 Bus Eireann service in Arklow.

Deputy Donnelly explained, "We need to press pause while we get a full picture of our current transport infrastructure. We're in a situation now where the Government is giving away our most profitable routes and leaving the State to pick up the tab for services with fewer passengers and fewer opportunities to turn a profit. Everyone, no matter where they live, is entitled to proper public transport, but we can't allow private companies to cherry-pick the best routes at the tax-payers' expense."

"The 133 Bus Eireann service in Arklow should not be sold off under these conditions. What's needed at this moment is a little space and time so the Government doesn't rush into another ill-advised sale. Numerous routes around the country have already been bought by private businesses and we're beginning to hear reports of lost drivers asking passengers for directions. That's simply not good enough. That is not giving people the service they deserve and the service they pay for."

"In Wicklow commuters are unfortunately far too familiar with transport problems. The N11, looks more like a car park than the main road to Dublin at rush hour. And those travelling by train fare no better. Often the carriages are so packed passengers can't get a seat and they have even more difficulty finding a space in the car park beforehand."

"The Government must ensure that our public transport services run on time and at full capacity. It is responsible for making that happen and owes it to the people not to sell off that responsibility to the highest bidder", concluded Deputy Donnelly.

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'I AM AN ARTIST WITH A DISABILITY THAT HAPPENS TO BE GAY, AND VERY PROUD OF IT'

Arklow-based film producer, director and writer Dave Thomas recently had a busy two weeks; They included winning the Elevation Indie Film Awards with his documentary short film titled '1 Billion', being officially selected to play at Festivals in Canada and India, being Officially Selected by a Festival in Glasgow plus winning a Screenplay award in Australia while reaching Finalist status with a screenplay also in Australia and Ireland.

Dave has worked as a producer, presenter, journalist, director and screenplay writer, often producing content for Ireland's biggest media companies.

He developed and designed publications, developed/invented an educational Board Game (available all over Europe) for people with an intellectual disability, the co-founded/Managed a multi-award winning national Arts Centre for people with disabilities and in his spare time has been a Disability Activist and LGBTQ Activist.

Dave left all that behind several years ago to become a Foster Carer with his husband Patrick Bracken. In 2015, Dave decided to return to work to develop a career in the film industry. He started by creating 'Actually Films' production company.

"The last three years have been extremely busy, not easy, very challenging to say the least as I was a 50 year old trying to reinvent himself and revive a career when no one knew me, and I had zero contacts to rely on for help. In many ways it was like being 21 years old starting out in the big bad world again but for the fact I'm half a century year old with a little more weight and a lot less hair" says Dave.

"I started to receive acknowledgement for my writing in 2017 when I was awarded Finalist for

a screenplay thanks to the Waterford Film Festival, this was my first one. I won a couple of festivals in late 2017 but then this year it all took off like a rocket. I received over 60 Official Selections, many of them consist of Winner titles. My first short screenplay win was for "Aretha", which recently won funding from the FilmOffaly Bursary Award. It now goes into production in January with a fantastic team behind it. I am currently looking for funding to produce some short films from my other screenplays that have done extremely well at festivals."

Dave made his Directorial debut with his documentary '1 Billion'. The title comes from the fact that approximately 15% of the world are people with a disability, that equates to one billion. The film highlights the stark contrast between the talented abilities of people with a disability to how the world still treats those with a disability as less than equal."

"I am an artist with a disability that happens to be gay, and very proud of it, so I know a thing or two about being marginalised", Dave adds "I think that provides the fire inside me to create work that has meaning and a message".

"I love writing. I love



Dave Thomas

films and I love being creative. With films like "Aretha" (a drama) and "1 Billion" (documentary) I can be creative, entertain people but also create awareness of issues that I am passionate about without being preachy."

Dave has also written Thrillers, Horrors and Comedies and will not

restrict himself to any one specific genre.

"This year has been exceptionally amazing, and almost every week I hear good news about one project or another. I am only beginning a journey that has had an incredible start so I'm very excited about what is to come in the years ahead."

Far Flung Trio at the Whale

The Whale Theatre has two exciting concerts lined up for 12th January, with the Far Flung Trio performing Peter and the Wolf during the day and then an evening performance later that day.

Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf is a piece that appeals primarily because of the storytelling element - the narration will be undertaken by the trio while playing. It is also a piece full of enchanting melodies and rich textures to suit their instruments. Prokofiev's colourful orchestration has been fascinating to engage with, stimulating the imagination as we hope it will the audience's.

It's a universally familiar tale, and suitable for children but also a sophisticated piece of music that will appeal to any age. Anyone familiar with the original will find it a rewarding new perspective on this much-loved gem.

The performance is about 60 minutes. The performance will include some educational introduction to the music and the instruments (violin, accordion and double-bass) and also some time for questions and answers with the artists.

That evening the Far Flung Trio concert kicks off at 8pm.

Getting 2019 off to a flying start, the Far Flung Trio will arrive in Greystones with an irresistible musical programme that is virtuosic, eccentric and charming in their signature style. The seductive melodies of Bizet's Carmen and Rossini's mischievous Barber of Seville overture ... jazzy tunes by Gershwin and an original work by Irish jazz giant Ronan Guilfoyle ... and lots more, all tailored by the Trio and delivered with panache and delight.

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Pictured at the Rathdrum Pride of Place celebration night in Jacob's Well, were Caroline Fox and Bill Porter.

Arklow volunteer awarded for inspirational social work

Chairperson of Arklow Community Action resource centre, Shiela Busher, was recently honoured with the award for Social Work and Social Inclusion at the national Volunteer Ireland Awards.

Shiela works alongside a team of volunteers and full committee, with the centre being set up by herself and Hilary Sharp. Every week Shiela is involved with facilitating waste food drops, a knitting group and a men's mental health group. She aids families going through difficulty in assisting them with deliveries of food. Shiela and the team also constantly on the look out for supplies of clothes and furniture to pass on families in need. On winning the award and attending the ceremony, Shiela said that being able to "bring

some of the people with me that helped me along the way and treat them to this experience" was something she loved being able to do. She added that winning the award was also a great way to show that the work they're doing is "being recognised as a great service to the community".

Altogether the centre have 170 families in Arklow on their list, with food drops taking place five nights a week. Shiela said that when the team started with the food drops, they weren't sure if they'd have enough fami-

by Cathy Lee

lies to cater for, "but now we don't have enough food for the families". She added that "the community is brilliant to us. It's only for the people in Arklow that we can do the work, we wouldn't be able to do the work without the community backing us".

Shiela described her motivation for doing this type of selfless work as personal to her. "When I was a young mother, I could see the struggles that was affecting my family and it made me question where do you go

for help with issues in the community?" and this pushed her to join a group called the Arklow Community Development project.

She said that project aimed to make change in the community, and she soon realised "we had to get up and do the change ourselves. The more I learned I saw that you can change things, slowly and it does make a difference".

To do this type of work, Sheila said that you have to have empathy and compassion, reminding yourself that "it could be anyone's child, or anyone in the situation. The issues can affect anyone's family".

Looking back on her 15 years of volunteer work, she said that one instance that sticks in her mind was when an unexpected package was put through the letterbox. It turned out to be a letter wrapped up from a child, thanking Shiela and Hilary for giving food to the child's family, with a small toy of theirs enclosed also. Shiela said that when this happened, she knew they had made an impact.

According to Wicklow Volunteer Centre Manager Leah Kinsella "We are very lucky to have volunteers like Sheila here in Wicklow and I'd like to congratulate her on this achievement. She is the embodiment of the volunteering spirit, giving back to make a real difference and supporting the most vulnerable in her community. Hopefully her story will inspire others."



Arklow volunteer Shiela Butler.

10 SCHOOLS IN WICKLOW WILL UNDERGO MAJOR IMPROVEMENT WORKS DURING SUMMER 2019

Fine Gael TD Andrew Doyle said 10 local schools will undergo major improvement works over the summer months thanks to Government funding through the Summer Works Scheme.

"Today's announcement confirms the Government's continuing prioritisation of capital funding for school buildings here in Wicklow which will enhance the learning and working environment for pupils and teachers.

"My colleague the Minister for Education, Joe McHugh has announced that 307 schools across the country will receive more than €40 million for Summer Work's projects for delivery in 2019. Minister McHugh confirmed to me that 8 primary and 2 post-

primary schools in Wicklow will receive funding for major improvement works. St. Kilian's Community School, Dominican

College, Scoil Naomh Iosaf, Bray School Project N S, Scoil Chualann, St. Peter's Primary School, Scoil Na Coróine Mhuire, Moneystown NS, St Saviours NS and Glenealy 1 NS.

"It is great that this announcement is being made now in advance of next year, to give schools more time to prepare for the planned works. The works will be carried out in schools mainly over the summer months in order to keep disruption to students, teachers and other to a minimum.

"The projects receiving funding relate to applications submitted by schools in categories 7, 8 and 9 under the multi-annual scheme. For any schools who applied

under category 10, which relates to external works such as upgrade and resurfacing of yards and car parking, there will be further news on this next year. Given the scale of the projects involved further detailed analysis of these applications is required with a view to enabling approved applications to proceed in 2020.

"In addition, Minister McHugh has also announced a further round of the Summer Works Scheme, which will open for applications in early 2019 for projects to be delivered from summer 2020. Minister Joe McHugh added: "The Government's Project Ireland 2040 plan included a major package of

investment in education for the next decade with the school building budget increasing by 70 per cent.

"This investment will provide for the continued increase in demographics while also allowing for a greater focus on refurbishment and upgrading of existing schools.

"All schools approved for the 2019 Summer Works Scheme will be notified via the Department's Esinet portal later today with further details and instructions on how to proceed. This year, almost €540 million will be invested in school building infrastructure under the school building and modernisation programme."

Brittas Bay National School retains teaching post

There was relief for parents, pupils and staff at Scoil Mhuire Realt na Mara, Brittas Bay National School when they found out they wouldn't lose one of their teachers this Christmas.

Stephen Donnelly TD explained, "There had been concerns that one teaching post would be lost on December 20th due to low enrolment numbers last September. Under Department of Education rules there needed to be a minimum of 150 students registered to maintain the school's existing six teaching positions. Unfortunately this academic year only 146 pupils enrolled, four short of the total. And it appeared that one teacher would be cut.

"Thanks to major efforts though by the Principal Eileen Byrne, and many teachers and parents, the Department of Education has taken a more flexible approach in this case. This means that despite not meeting enrolment targets, the school will retain its sixth teacher for this academic year and by next September it should meet those targets and keep the post.

"But it's not all good news I'm afraid, even with six teachers Scoil Mhuire Realt na Mara is still struggling with large pupil to teacher ratios. There is no P.E. hall, so gym classes are entirely weather dependent. The Principal doesn't have an office space for private meetings. Extra help is urgently needed for heavily oversubscribed special needs teachers who currently have no designated classroom for their lessons. And sadly the Government failed to include Scoil Mhuire in its 40 million budget for upgrade works next summer.

"This is simply not good enough. Our children deserve better. For my part, I'm determined to help them get it. I have written to the Education Minister Joe McHugh asking him to ensure capital funding is made available to build extra classrooms, an office and a P.E. hall.

"I will also take the issue to the floor of the Dáil by tabling a Parliamentary



Stephen Donnelly, TD

Question. 'PQs' as they are known, can be read by journalists so act as a useful tool in highlighting important issues while simultaneously sending a message to Government that action is needed", concluded Donnelly.

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WICKLOW'S TIDY TOWN GROUPS COLLECT AWARDS

This year's TidyTowns awards for the Midlands & East region were presented on Thursday 6th December, at a prize-giving ceremony in the Rustic Inn, Abbeyshrule, Co. Longford.

There were awards for a number of Wicklow tidy towns groups. Arklow, Greystones collected

Aughrim, and Wicklow Co. Town picked up silver medals; Bray and

Bronze medals. Aughrim was the Co. Wicklow winner, Wicklow Town was Highly Commended,

Arklow was commended and Hollywood Village won an endeavour award (awarded to tidy towns

groups who achieved the greatest improvement in score).

Special Awards were

handed out for Arklow's Riverwalk (Sustainable Development Award National Award Winner - sponsored by Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment), and Hollywood Tidy Towns (Sustainable Development Award National Award Winner - sponsored by Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment).

Winners were presented with their awards by Minister of State for Rural Affairs & Natural Resources, Mr. Sean Canney T.D. and Eoghan Jones, SuperValu Regional Manager, long-time sponsors of the competition. Also joining the Minister on stage was Paddy Mathews of Fáilte Ireland.

At the ceremony, Minister Canney spoke of the recently announced grant scheme which will enable TidyTowns committees to apply for a grant of between €1,000 and €4,000.

Minister Canney said "He was delighted to be in a position to attend the awards on behalf of Minister Ring and encouraged committees

to avail of the €1.4 Million in grant funding recently announced by Minister Ring to assist committees in preparing for the 2019 competition".

Minister Canney went on to say "Generations of communities have volunteered with TidyTowns to make our country a place we can all be proud of."

"I have nothing but admiration for the volunteers here tonight and across the country and this grant scheme is recognition from the Government of the huge contribution made by committees to their community."

Interest in the SuperValu TidyTowns competition has been stronger than ever in recent years with a record 883 communities entering the competition in 2018. The competition has been running since 1958 and is organised by the Department of Rural and Community Development. The competition has been sponsored by SuperValu since 1992.



CHRISTMAS TREE SHREDDING JANUARY 2019

Bring your Christmas Tree to any of the collection points below. They will be shredded, composted and used again!

No wreaths, plastic trees or decorations please.

	LOCATION	TIME	DATE
Arklow	Arklow Recycling Centre, Croghan Industrial Estate	Mon-Thur: 9.00-4.30pm Fri: 9.00am-3.30pm Sat: 9.30am-1.00pm	3rd -15th January
Aughrim	Tidy Towns Pavillion	Mon-Sat: 9.00am-4.00pm	3rd -15th January
Avoca	Avoca Recycling Centre	Mon-Thurs: 9.00-4.00pm Fri: 9.00 am-3.30pm Sat: 9.30am-1.00pm Closed for lunch 1.00- 2.00pm every day.	3rd -15th January
Baltinglass	Rampere Landfill & Recycling Centre	Mon-Thur: 8.30-4.30pm Fri: 8.30am-3.30pm Sat: 8.30am-1.00pm	3rd -15th January
Blessington	County Council Yard, Naas Road	Mon to Fri: 10.00am-4.00pm	3rd -15th January
Bray	Bray Recycling Centre, Beechwood Close, Boghall Road	Mon-Fri: 9.00am-4.00pm Sat: 9.30am-1pm	3rd -15th January
Bray	Festina Lente Foundation, Old Connaught Avenue	10am-4pm Daily	3rd -15th January Donations in aid of Festina Lente
Greystones	Carpark in front of the Wicklow County Council Offices on Mill Road opposite the bottle banks		3rd -15th January
Hollywood	Church Carpark, Hollywood	10.00am -12.00 midday	12th January Donations in aid of Tidy Towns
Wicklow	The Murrough Recycling Centre, Wicklow	Mon-Thur: 9.00am-4.00pm Fri: 9.00am-1.00pm Sat: 9.30am -1pm Closed for lunch 1.00 - 1.45pm	3rd -15th January
Wicklow	Green King, Coolbeg (road opp. Beehive)	Mon-Fri: 8-5.30. Sat: 9am - 1pm	3rd -15th January

Illegal Waste Collection

Beware of unauthorised waste collectors operating in the County Wicklow area.

Only give your waste to Collectors who have a valid Waste Collection Permit. Always ask to see the Waste Collection Permit. Always note the Waste Collection Number on the Waste Collection Permit.

The Waste Collection Permit will display the Waste Collector's Name, Address and Waste Collection Permit Number. The vehicle should clearly show the Name of the Waste Collection Permit Holder and the Waste Collection Permit number.

It is a criminal offence to give waste to a unauthorised collector. Penalties upon conviction can be up to €5,000 and/or 12 months imprisonment

Report any information you have on illegal dumping to Litterline, 1890 548837 or 0404-20127



COUNTY WICKLOW RECYCLING CENTRES	Christmas Opening & Closing Times
Arklow	
Saturday 22nd Dec	OPEN
Christmas Eve	Closed
Christmas Day	Closed
St. Stephens Day	Closed
Thursday 27th Dec	Closed
Friday 28th Dec	Closed
Saturday 29th Dec	OPEN 9.00 to 1pm (half day)
New Year's Eve	Closed
New Year's Day	Closed
Wednesday 2nd Jan	OPEN
Avoca	
Saturday 22nd Dec	OPEN
Christmas Eve	Closed
Christmas Day	Closed
St. Stephens Day	Closed
Thursday 27th Dec	Closed
Friday 28th Dec	Closed
Saturday 29th Dec	OPEN
New Year's Eve	Closed
New Year's Day	Closed
Wednesday 2nd Jan	OPEN
Thursday 3rd Jan	OPEN
Bray	
Saturday 22nd Dec	OPEN
Christmas Eve	Closed
Christmas Day	Closed
St. Stephens Day	Closed
Thursday 27th Dec	Closed
Friday 28th Dec	OPEN
Saturday 29th Dec	OPEN
New Year's Eve	Closed
New Year's Day	Closed
Wednesday 2nd Jan	OPEN
The Murrough	
Saturday 22nd Dec	OPEN
Christmas Eve	Closed
Christmas Day	Closed
St. Stephens Day	Closed
Thursday 27th Dec	Closed
Friday 28th Dec	OPEN Sat Hrs
Saturday 29th Dec	OPEN
New Year's Eve	OPEN
New Year's Day	Sat Hrs
Wednesday 2nd Jan	Closed
Rampere Baltinglass	
Saturday 22nd Dec	OPEN
Christmas Eve	OPEN Sat Hrs
Christmas Day	Closed
St. Stephens Day	Closed
Thursday 27th Dec	Closed
Friday 28th Dec	OPEN Sat Hrs
Saturday 29th Dec	OPEN
New Year's Eve	OPEN Sat Hrs
New Year's Day	Closed
Wednesday 2nd Jan	OPEN

Stop Food Waste for Christmas

One third of the food we buy goes into the bin with twice as much waste over Christmas. Try to plan your shopping better, store the food more carefully, cook a bit less for the main meal and parties and save the leftovers by freezing. All help to reduce food waste.

Check out the 12 days of Christmas recipe book for leftovers on www.wicklow.ie or ask for a copy from eo@wicklowcoco.ie or **Locall 1890 222276**

For more tips on avoiding food waste visit www.stopfoodwaste.ie

Composting at home is great for the environment but don't forget to ask your bin collector to provide you with a brown bin for food waste which will result in lower bin charges.

WHAT GOES IN THE GREEN BIN?

Free talks available from the recycling ambassadors programme by VOICE.

For Details See www.voiceireland.org/general-news/voice-launches-nationwide-recycling-and-waste-management-workshops/

#RecyclingListIRL



Andrew Lawless collects the Highly Commended award on behalf of Wicklow Tidy Towns



Members of Hollywood Tidy Towns John Treanor and Julie Treanor pick up the 'Can It' Award.

Wicklow students awarded sports scholarships from IT Carlow

Wicklow students Bethany Sharpe from Tinahely and Sean Hurley from Arklow were awarded sports scholarships from the Institute of Technology Carlow for their exceptional abilities in rugby.

The occasion also saw two awardees of the first Carlow GAA scholarships in both hurling and football and the first scholarship by Carlow Camogie and Carlow Ladies Football Association to aid athletes in either sport. The

three scholarships provide financial support, as well as mentoring, nutrition and sports rehab support and access to the Institute's first-class sports facilities.

Now in its 20th year, the Institute's sports scholarship programme

provides financial and academic support, mentoring, injury rehabilitation, strength and conditioning support, high performance coaching and access to Institute of Technology Carlow's renowned sports facilities. The number of

scholarships offered to students has more than doubled since the programme was introduced in 1999, reflecting Institute of Technology Carlow's position as one of Ireland's leading third-level institutes for the provision of sport and

physical activity.

The celebration of the sports scholars comes a few short months after Minister for Communications Richard Bruton, TD turned the sod on the Institute's new €15 million, 31-acre South Sports Campus.

Congratulating the sports and academic scholars on their achievements, Dr. Patricia Mulcahy, President of Institute of Technology Carlow said, "All of these scholarships and awards are granted to high achievers who exemplify our core values of commitment to knowledge and the achievement of excellence; to the principles and practice of connectedness; to creativity and innovation; and to ensuring high standards of integrity and ethical behaviour. Today we applaud you for your talent, application, dedication, persistence and leadership that continue to be an inspiration for our Institute community and for all citizens from all walks of life across our region and country."



Wicklow students Bethany Sharpe (women's rugby) from tinahely and Sean Hurley (men's rugby) from Arklow were awarded sports scholarships as a result of their exceptional sporting ability from the Institute of Technology Carlow.

13 Wicklow projects qualify for 2019 Young Scientist Exhibition

With one month to go, Wicklow finalists of the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition (BTYSTE) are busily preparing their projects for the 55th annual Exhibition, taking place at the RDS, Dublin from 9-12th January. This year, Wicklow is represented by seven schools from across the county, with 13 projects exhibited at the BTYSTE. 1,137 students across Ireland submitted projects

The Co. Wicklow projects are: **Avondale Community College** (Senior); An Eggshell Filtration System to Remove Pollutants from Water. **Presentation College** (Intermediate); Blue is the New Green: The feasibility and possible application of water harvesting in Irish schools. **Colaiste Chill Mhantain** (Junior); Will Hydroxymethylfurfuraldehyde (HMF) Levels in Honey Affect: 1) The Quality of Honey and 2) Effects of the Honey on Human Health. **St. Mary's College** (Intermediate); Rounding up the bees: Is there Roundup in our honey? **St. Mary's College** (Intermediate); Technology Becoming Smarter Humans Becoming Dumber - Is it the reversal of The Flynn Effect? **Avondale Community College** (Junior); Are dairy farmers wasting money on footbath solutions? **St. Gerard's** (Junior); The Mystery of the Killiney Beach Amber (aims to identify whether an object found two days after Storm Ophelia on Killiney Beach is genuine amber). **Dominican College** (Intermediate); Statistical analysis of changing attitudes towards male workers in early years childcare/education. **St. Gerard's** (Junior); To investigate the incidence and impact of microplastics on Irish farms. **St. Mary's College** (Intermediate); Want a safe car? Wheel Get on that! (to create a safer vehicle initiative, using a device, when submerged in water, a waterproof-electrical system will open windows to save lives). **St. Mary's College** (Intermediate); How to build happiness (to investigate the link between architecture and psychology and if we can use our cities to enhance the wellbeing of their residents). **St. Mary's College** (Senior); Children with autism cannot wait (An analysis of assessment waiting times, age of diagnosis and provision of services for autism spectrum disorder children in Ireland.). **Gaelcholaiste na Mara** (Intermediate); a study of the difference between left and right hand dominance in everyday tasks.

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Cumann na mBunscol Chill Mhantáin held its now annual 'Young Whistlers' refereeing course recently in St. Brigid's Hall, Kilcoole Primary School.

Refereeing in the modern game can be a very daunting task however 19 determined 5th class boys and girls faced the challenge with great enthusiasm last Thursday.

Games Development

Officer, Garrett Doyle, guided the children through the fundamental skills they needed to learn to be an effective and fair Gaelic football referee. The course was very interactive as the children

worked in groups to explore the common fouls players make when they have the ball and other 'do's and don'ts' of refereeing. They discussed the issue of respect, and the importance of giving

and getting respect when refereeing, playing and watching our Gaelic games.

The children practised how they would signal any foul they saw and they discussed how they would con-

tinue to build their confidence in refereeing games in the future. Each Young Whistler received a certificate of achievement, an O'Neill's windbreaker and most importantly their whistle!

Cumann na mBunscol Chill Mhantáin said "Well done to the Young Whistlers who qualified from North-East Wicklow, we look forward to seeing you on the pitch! Young Whistler courses have also been rolled out in West and South Wicklow with thanks to G.D.A's Darren Hayden and Cormac Noone. We look forward to introducing a Young Whistlers course for hurling/camogie in the New Year."

The new North East Young Whistlers are: Aoife Keating, Tom Wilson, Matthew Dowd (Kilcoole P.S.), Daniel Garvey Lucy Garvey (St. Brigid's, Greystones) Aoife Tivnan, Cian Power (Roundwood N.S) Millie Ní Threanlamhaigh, Fionn Teehan (Gaelscoil Chill Mhantain) Eanna O Cuinn, Sophie Ní Leathlobhair, Teagan Ní Chróinín Sunderland (Scoil Chualann), Dillon Hunt, Ella Kavanagh (Newtown P.S.), Grace Nic Réamonn, Cillian Mac Craith (Gaelscoil Ui Cheadaigh) Ronan Hardiman, Josh Jackson (St. Cronan's) and Áine Walsh (St. Kevin's Greystones).

Wicklow hotels bracing for Brexit storm

Despite another year of growth in 2018, business sentiment among hotels in Wicklow and across the country has dropped significantly according to the latest hotel barometer from the Irish Hotels Federation (IHF).

Less than half of hotels (49%) nationally now report a positive outlook for the next 12 months compared with the 82% who had a positive outlook this time last year. Key concerns for the sector include the escalating risk and uncertainty around Brexit, reduced visitors numbers from the UK and the increasing costs of doing business.

While 73% of hotels have seen some increase in overall business levels this year, growth from North America and Europe has masked the poor performance of the UK market with visitors still down 5% on 2016 due to persistently weak performance following the referendum. This is having a direct impact on hotels throughout the country with 52% reporting a drop in business from Great Britain this year while 40% have seen a drop in business from Northern Ireland. The vast majority of hotels (91%) now express concern about the impact of Brexit on their business over the next 12 months.

Brian McNamara, Chair of the IHF's Wicklow branch states: "We are increasingly concerned about the direction that Brexit is taking and the impact that heightened uncertainty is having on our sector. A disruptive Brexit would have enormous economic repercussions which would be felt directly by tourism businesses here in Wicklow and across the country given our heavy reliance on the UK market." Tourism currently supports 13,900 jobs in Wicklow and contributes some €174m to the local economy annually.

Mr McNamara states that, even if a deal is eventually reached, any prolonged uncertainty in the coming months could result in a further erosion of consumer sentiment. "The consistent growth achieved over the last seven years in a dynamic and competitive international market cannot be taken for granted. We are particularly concerned with the Government's change in approach to tourism and the lack of recognition of the important role it plays as an engine of economic growth and regional balance. With the Brexit storm gathering, relentless increases in the cost of doing business, international trade wars, a slowdown in European growth and the increase in tourism VAT, there is little surprise in the drop in business sentiment. Many of our members are now re-examining their future investment strategies and taking a more cautious approach to planning for next year and beyond."

"The Government must mitigate Brexit related risks to tourism and facilitate the continued growth of an industry that supports approximately 266,000 jobs, over 70% of which are outside Dublin. There are aspects of the economic environment and Brexit that are largely outside our control but it is imperative that we mitigate the risks and potential damage where we do have some control over our destiny. We have to retain our competitiveness and this means taking decisive action on the issues that are affecting the cost of doing business."

According to Mr McNamara, however, only one in five hoteliers believe that the Government is doing enough to tackle the high cost of doing business in Ireland. Some 76% of hotels have seen further increases in insurance costs this year. Of these, the average increase in premiums was 15%. This is in addition to substantial increases in recent years. Mr McNamara states that insurance costs have reached an unsustainable level, averaging €1,150 per room annually.

He called on the Government to introduce a Tourism Satellite Account within the Central Statistics Office (CSO) to provide a full analysis of the economic activity in the Tourism industry and how much it contributes to each county throughout the country, including Wicklow. "It will also provide independent verification to assist those who rely on the National Accounts, where tourism is not identified, to inform their deliberations on taxation and economic policy," he said.

On a brighter note, Christmas events and parties remain a significant part of the business for more than half of the hoteliers surveyed (52%). Of those, almost half (47%) report an increase in business this festive season compared to last year with over a third (36%) of those surveyed taking on additional staff for the Christmas period.



Shane Brady, Jill Corrigan and Ross O'Brien are pictured at the Wicklow Archers Awards Night in Shoreline, Greystones. Wicklow Archers is a community-based archery club that supports the growth and promotion of all forms of archery, for people of all ages, ability and background.

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Amen.
Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and favour will be granted. Never known to fail.
T.E., G.S.,

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

S K Design (0402 94680) seeks full planning permission on behalf of Patrick Byrne for 2no detached dwellings, the provision of 6no car parking spaces, connection to existing services and associated works at Bridge House Paddock, Aughrim, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Brid McNamee and Karl Peck seek permission for alterations to their previously granted, Reg Ref 16/333, part single, part two storey extension to the rear and side and all associated works at Glenholme, Convent Avenue, Bray, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, Tom and Pat Redmond seek planning permission for extension to Woodpark Housing Estate at Rathdrum. The proposed development consists of 46 houses and crèche comprising four bedroom detached and semi-detached 2 storey houses, three-bedroom semi-detached 2 storey houses, and three bedroomed bungalows, together with associated site development works and services with connection of foul sewer to existing public service at the Woods Estate at Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, Patricia Prendiville and Sheila Quinn, intend to apply for Permission at this site: Kilamoat Lower, Rathdangan, Co. Wicklow W91 X5K2. The development will consist of: Change of use (removal of Condition No. 2 of planning application reference 03/9191) from restricted use as a dwelling to use by all classes of persons. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application. (Signed: Vivian Cummins www.vca.ie / RIAI Registered Architect).

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

RA Form No. 10.2 (Phil. Consulate)

Republic of the Philippines
Embassy of the Philippines
London, United Kingdom

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

In compliance with Sec. 7 of RA. No. 10172, a notice is hereby served to the Public that Eva Grefaldeo Denuyo has filed with this Office a petition for clerical error particularly in the sex from "F" (Female) to "MALE" in the Report of Birth of JEFFRY GREFALDEO DENUYO who was born on 01 July 2007 at Dublin, Ireland and whose parents are EVA GREFALDEO DENUYO and JEFFRY JAMILI DENUYO.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later than 24th January 2019

(Signed)

SENEN T. MANGALILE

Consul General

Dated this 27th day of December 2018

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