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Tuesday 22nd January 2019 5 Eglinton Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow Tel: 01 - 2869111 www.wicklowtimes.net E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie

WICKLOW 'LEFT BEHIND'

Councillors have called for better investment in Wicklow transport and business after being presented with the results of the Wicklow Commuter Survey last week.

Almost 7,000 people completed the survey, and it found that a third of Co. Wicklow commuters would consider a lower salary if that meant not having to commute outside the county. Wicklow County Council hopes the survey results, which demonstrate a large daily exodus of a high-skilled workforce, will make the case to the IDA and Enterprise Ireland that County Wicklow merits more investment.

Approximately 66,000 County Wicklow residents regularly commute. Almost 26,000 Co. Wicklow residents are working outside the county, the majority of them

Third Level educated. This compares to just over 8,000 commuters coming into the county. Bray (14,873) and Wicklow Town (13,768) are the biggest sources of County Wicklow commuters to work.

About three quarters 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' with their commute. The survey found that compared to the whole country, those who commute to work from County Wicklow are more likely to travel for over half an hour and

much more likely to travel for over an hour.

"Sitting in a car for that length of time is bad for your health on a number of fronts," said Cllr John Ryan. "From a family point of view, you're away from your family and away from things you want to do. There are crashes every business day on the N11 and there is also the environmental impact."

Responding to the survey results at last week's council meeting, Cathaoirleach Pat Vance said "we had a previous commuter survey a number of years ago, this is similar, what it really means is we need to get



Pictured: Nursing Studies & Midwifery students Nicola Vanbeck Courser, Teighlour Fegan, and Courtney Giltrap at the BIFE Open Day last Friday.

employment in County Wicklow and that's the only way of reversing the trends we see on it at the moment and it's up to ourselves and IDA to bring employment into the County Wicklow area. That's the only way we'll solve this problem."

Cllr Mary Kavanagh called for the Council to "actively pursue large investment in the county", while Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien said that the survey results presented a challenge back to the Council.

Cllr Joe Behan said "The fact that so many people took part in the survey means it is essential that we don't just leave it there, that this becomes the beginning of a process that will lead on to improvements for those people who completed the survey and those who didn't."

Green Party councillor

Steven Matthews said Co. Wicklow had been "left behind" in terms of transport and he called for the DART to be extended to Wicklow Town.

"When you look at the transport plan in 2015 it was all the north and west of the country and very little for the south and south-east despite huge commuter numbers coming from there. There's a plan for rail electrification to Drogheda and Maynooth and Wicklow was left behind, we need a DART extension to Wicklow; it's the same distance out to those places from Dublin as it is to Wicklow, and Wicklow town and Bray are considered large population growth centres. I really think we should look for a feasibility study for rail electrification to Wicklow."

Continues on Page 3

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What's Happening...

Invictus: A Passion

Bray and Wicklow Choral Societies will be taking part in the Irish premiere of Howard Goodall's new sacred oratorio, 'Invictus: A Passion', in Church of the Holy Redeemer, Bray; on 10th February, at 8:00 p.m. This is an event of national and European significance. Musical Director is Frank Kelly. The ConTempo Quartet and Degani Ensemble, led by Alan Smale. Soloists: Joan O'Malley and Ross Scanlon. Tickets, €15, available from Eventbrite or at the door.

Memory Lane Music Group

The Memory Lane Music Group meets each Friday morning in St. Patrick's Parish Centre, Church Road, Greystones, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This weekly group is for people with Alzheimer's and/or their carers. Singing is not only an enjoyable activity, it can also 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.

Bray Tidy Towns cleanup

Join Bray Tidy Towns on Saturday 2nd February at the Albert Walk in Bray at 10:30am for a New Year weeding and clean-up. All are welcome to take part.



Pictured: Sadie Doyle and Charlie Kinsella at the Avoca Senior Citizens Annual Dinner which was held at the Woodenbridge Hotel.



Mary Delaney of the Avoca Senior Citizens makes a presentation to Miley Doyle of the Wicklow County Council Recycle Centre in appreciation of his 10 years of fundraising for the Avoca Senior Citizens Annual Dinner which was held at the Woodenbridge Hotel.

'Rereading the Classics' in Bray Library

How well do you know the classics? Do you know your 'Crime and Punishment' from your 'Pride and Prejudice'? What can a budding writer learn from the great writers? And was Mark Twain right when he defined a classic book as 'something that everybody wants read and nobody wants to read'?

Throughout 2019 the great works of authors as varied as Jane Austen and James Joyce, Dickens and Dostoevsky, the Brontës and Crason McCullers will be discussed. Sessions which will take place from 11am to 12pm on the last Monday of the month in Bray Library, Eglinton Road, Bray, chaired by award-winner writer and creative writing tutor David Butler, whose most recent novel, 'City of Dis' published by New Island, was short-listed for the Irish Novel of the Year, 2015. Free but booking required - call 01-2862600 to reserve a place.

ASL Open Day in aid of Arklow Cancer Support and RNLI

ASL Safety & Training in Arklow are having an Open Day on Jan 25th from 10am to 4pm at their New Training Centre in the Kish Business Park, Arklow to celebrate their 5th Birthday.

"We will be offering a free Initial Safety & Training Consultation with one of our team to help you assess your safety & training needs for your organisation for 2019 - Register at Reception upon Arrival. We are also asking everyone coming along to register & donate €5 euro to our charities of the day, all monies received through the Booking system or on the Day will be split between Arklow Cancer Support & Arklow RNLI." You can register for the event at www.aslsafety.com.

Celebration of Music: Piano Class of Svetlana Rudenko

Music enhances imagery and mental visualisation is a part of our consciousness.

Come along as a group of talented young people bring a celebration of music to The Whale Theatre in Greystones on 27th January. Composers featured include Beethoven, Debussy, Grieg, Faure, Shostakovich, Bernstein, Philip Martin and others. Special Guests: Ann Macken on flute; Tim Doyle on violin.

4:00 p.m. Doors open 3:30 p.m. Tickets €15/€5. Check out full details for this special Whale Theatre event on www.WhaleTheatre.ie.

Volunteers needed in Wicklow for Lollipop Day

The Oesophageal Cancer Fund (OCF) needs your help this March. For the 18th annual Lollipop Day, the OCF is calling for volunteers in Wicklow on Friday, 1st and Saturday, 2nd of March to help raise vital funds for oesophageal cancer.

Lollipop Day involves thousands of people selling lollipops (€2) nationwide, in an effort to raise vital funds for the Oesophageal Cancer Fund. Without the generosity and support from volunteers, the OCF would not be able to provide the vital role it does in terms of awareness, research and better outcomes for patients and their families with this cancer in Ireland.

If you have a few hours to spare on Friday, 1st and Saturday, 2nd of March, pop down on your own or with friends, have some fun and help the OCF. For more information on Lollipop Day; to volunteer, to make a donation, go to www.lollipopday.ie or to volunteer in Wicklow call Anne Cantrell on 086 454 2713.

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Pictured: John Mulqueen from Wicklow Lions presents 1st prize to Ethna Neiland, Pauline Carton Tina and Joe Neiland - the outright winners of the Wicklow and District Lions quiz which was held in Wicklow Golf Club in aid of Wicklow Cancer Support, Wicklow Male Voice Choir and Wicklow ICA.

COUNCIL TO MAKE VIEWS KNOWN ON WALES NUCLEAR PLANT

The proposed Nuclear Power Plant in Anglesey, North Wales, and its potential impact on the East Coast of Ireland and Co. Wicklow in particular, was further discussed at last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council.

News emerged over the weekend before last Monday's meeting that the Japanese company behind the proposal, Hitachi, were likely to abandon the project. However several councillors were keen that the Council make a submission regardless before the consultation phase ends on 26th January.

Cllr Tom Fortune (Ind), who put the matter on the meeting's agenda, said "we need to put in a combined submission; this is one of the most serious issues facing the county for many years. The UK Government identified up to eight locations for construction of nuclear

plants by 2025, and five of these will be built on what they describe as the Irish Sea coast." Cllr Fortune expressed his concerns about prevailing winds carrying fallout and radioactive contaminants from routine operations or accidental releases. He stressed the need to convene a meeting with a view to making a joint submission expressing the Council's opposition to the development. "We need to sit down collectively; this could have massive implications, if not for us then perhaps for our children or grandchildren. If we as a body don't react to this and don't put in a substantial submission on it, I don't

think we're behaving properly."

Cllr Steven Matthews (Green Party) agreed, saying it was not known if another developer would step in. "Cllr Fortune is right to raise this matter; it's a serious matter potentially. It looks like the developer is going to pull out of it. However, I think the proposal is still live in that another developer could step in."

Cllr Irene Winters also expressed her preference for a joint Council submission as opposed to individual councillors making submissions. On the potential threat of prevailing winds she said "Fallout from the Fukushima disaster made

it as far as Alaska on the ocean currents. The water could bring it here even if the wind doesn't. Fracking also takes place in the UK and there have been links between fracking and small earthquakes. The last thing we need with a nuclear reactor is an earthquake so it would be extremely important we make a submission."

Cllr Jennifer Whitmore was also undeterred by news of Hitachi walking away, saying that "we need to get our opinion on this on the record. We are a council in Wicklow and we have a moral responsibility to the people of Wicklow to make our opinions known."

Tomnafinnogue Wood sold without 'safeguards'

Councillors last week voted to dispose of approximately 165 acres of Tomnafinnogue Wood, Shillelagh, to the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DCHG), in a move that left West Wicklow Cathaoirleach Tommy Cullen concerned about the long-term future of the land.

Councillors voted 17 to 4 to dispose of the land, which has a valuation of €388,000, without the conditions that Cllr Cullen wanted to include to "safeguard the land into the future".

Cllr Cullen wanted to include a caveat in the disposal which instructed that "at any future date, if these lands that we're now transferring ownership of to the Department are to be sold in full or part, that they would first have to come back for approval from the elected council; this would be to safeguard the long-term future of the woods and prevent them from being sold off at some future date."

Cllr Cullen clarified that "I'm not saying that's the intention of this particular proposal as it stands", but explained that "It is a large public park and widely used and if we sign away any control on it now, the public will have no further say in it."

The DCHG told Wicklow Times that the National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) will be assuming formal ownership of the property.

"The decision by WCC to dispose was a follow-through on a long-standing agreement and contract of sale from 1995 with the NPWS," the Department explained.

"There were a number of covenants and technical legal issues which delayed the formal conclusion of the contract. These have only recently been resolved with the Chief State Solicitors Office (CSSO) and WCC.

"Since 1999, with the agreement of WCC, the NPWS had assumed responsibility for the management and maintenance of the woodland site while these legal issues were being resolved. The decision by WCC has simply cleared the way for the final transfer to NPWS and we will continue to manage, preserve, protect and develop the site as we have over the past 20 years.

"In this context, since we took occupation of and responsibility for the day-to-day management of the site in 1999 we have provided walking trails, bridges, boardwalks, car parking, carried out invasive species control and improved the Derry River to provide Salmon spawning areas, etc."

WICKLOW 'LEFT BEHIND'

Continued from Page 1

Cllr Derek Mitchell (FG) said "The National Transport Plan provides a very good transport service to Bray, but south of that it provides a worse service, and the recent changes to the railway timetable have increased the journey time by 20% from Dublin to Greystones and similar amounts to Wicklow and Arklow. Clearly people are looking for a shorter journey, but the National Transport Plan as it's being implemented will provide the people with a longer journey which is exactly what people don't want.

"It's essential that the NTA deal with the fact that making public transport worse will put people in cars and therefore you need another solution like express buses.

"The most remarkable point about public transport in County Wicklow is that the rail line south of Greystones is almost totally empty at rush hour, there is one train at rush hour which is a very short train. What is needed is for the staff in the NTA, Irish Rail and bus companies to put forward a proper plan for serving the county and that hasn't been done."



IT'S A GIRL!

Local TD and Minister for Health, Simon Harris, and his wife Caoimhe have welcomed their first child, a baby girl born last Thursday in Holles Street Maternity Hospital. The delivery was by C Section and mother and baby are doing well.

Speaking to Wicklow Times on Friday morning Simon said they hadn't decided on a name as they were convinced it was going to be a boy and they had chosen the name Conor. However, very soon after he took to Instagram to share the news that they had decided on the name Saoirse for their 8lb 11ounce bundle of joy.

He called being a father his "most important job" and added "So happy. Who knew you could be so bowled over and blown away."

Simon Harris married Caoimhe Wade in July 2017. Caoimhe who is from Courteencurragh, Gorey, is a cardiac nurse at the Children's Heart Centre at Our Lady's Hospital, Crumlin in Dublin.

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Christmas was extra special this year for Bray Credit Union members who won the December Car draw and cash prizes - three brand new cars and €4,500 in cash prizes. Driving away with a new car were winners Elizabeth Kane, Tara Canavan and Taylor Butler. Cash prizes were won by: Pauline O'Brien, Linda Pluck, Jason Byrne, Ann Murphy and Ian Dutton.

So, don't delay, join Bray Credit Union today and sign up for their monthly car draw for less than €1 per week at www.braycu.ie; Membership of BCU is open to those living or working from Kilternan to Ashford Enniskerry, the Sallygap, Roundwood and Glendalough.

Pictured are: Elizabeth Kane and Tara Canavan at Fitzpatrick Motors, Bray.

WALSH SELECTED TO RUN...VANCE TO RETIRE

At a meeting of Fianna Fail held in Bray last Wednesday Chris Walsh was selected to represent Fianna Fail in the upcoming May Local Elections.

The selection convention, chaired by ex-senator, Donie Cassidy, was attended by both Wicklow Fianna Fail TDs, Pat Casey and Stephen Donnelly.

Walsh was proposed alongside Malachai Duddy and following an election, Walsh was selected.

Walsh grew up in Bray and has been Fianna Fail local representative for the past year and is active in a number of community initiatives, including Five Loaves and has recently become involved with Bray First Responders. He is a nephew of former Fianna Fáil TD, Joe Behan. Chris pledges, if

elect, "to make efforts to get traffic moving more smoothly through Bray and to restore the commercial life of the town. I will work to make sure the Florentine Centre is fully developed and marketed to help restore Bray's fortunes."

He believes passionately in sport, and having played for St Fergals as a child, would like to continue the work started by Cllr Vance and Deputy Stephen Donnelly in securing a sports complex for North County Wicklow.

His other priorities, he says, are; Travel to Dublin for commuters; Promoting cultural diversity in the town

and fully integrating the 'New Irish'; and developing the tourism and hospitality potential of Bray.

It was an eventful meeting as veteran local politician, Cllr Pat Vance announced his retirement from local politics. Vance, who is currently Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council and Bray Municipal District Council has held a number of high profile positions in his 35-year career (this is the third time that he has chaired the Council). He has served on Bray Urban District Council, Bray VEC and many other public bodies.

Wicklow Garda High Court action continues

The High Court challenge taken by Glenealy's Assistant Garda Commissioner Fintan Fanning in an attempt to overturn his suspension from duty, will take place this week after a week's adjournment.

Mr Fanning claims his suspension is unlawful and unfair. He wants his suspension lifted pending an investigation by the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission, and also seeks to have orders restraining the Commissioner communicating what he says is false information about him, and directing the Commissioner to co-operate with the GSOC investigation.

He is also claiming damages.

Assistant Commissioner Fanning, who has been a Garda for 38 years, was suspended by Garda Commissioner Drew Harris earlier this month pending a GSOC investigation into allegations of 'Misconduct in Public Office' made against him.

Fanning described the suspension as bizarre and claims that no procedures were followed. He says that as he is due to retire next August, the decision to suspend him can be equated to a dismissal and an end to his career.



Cllr Pat Vance, Elaine Willis, Stephen Donnelly T.D., Chris Walsh, Anne Gregory, Donie Cassidy and Pat Casey TD at the Fianna Fail meeting in Bray last week.

Coastal protection works to go ahead at old dump site

Green Party Councillor Steven Matthews has welcomed the news that agreement has been reached on coastal protection works at the old Bray dump site north of the Harbour. Councillor Matthews described the news as 'positive for Bray and our coastal environment.'

Councillor Matthews said, "The dump is a legacy landfill site utilised by Bray up to the late 1960s and pre-dates proper waste management and standards for landfill sites. In recent years there has been constant erosion at the site and decades of old waste has been exposed and ended up in the sea. With sea level rise, higher tides, storm surges and erosive run-off from increased rainfall the entire dump would eventually end up in the sea if protection was not put in place.

"I have been concerned for many years at the environmental impact of this site and have been continuously working with my Green Party colleague in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown, Cllr Ossian Smyth to have protection measures put in place. I expect that Wicklow and Dun Laoghaire will now immediately proceed to detailed design and then construction of coastal defences.

"I would also see this as an opportunity to include a coastal path and cycle way to eventually join Bray with Shanganagh parklands."



Cllr Steven Matthews at the old Bray dump

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**Met Opera Screening:
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**Greystones Film Club –
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– Sunday
3rd February**



**The Songs and
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8th February**



**Alison Spittle
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– Comedy.
Saturday 9th February**



**A Taste of Baroque with
the Degani Trio –
Sunday
10th February**



**Greystones Film Club:
THE LONELY BATTLE OF
THOMAS REID – Wednesday
13th February**



**Love Bites: Flo McSweeney
and Carmel McCreagh
with Fiachra Trench –
Thursday 14th February**



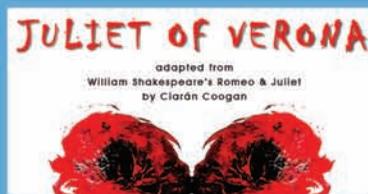
**The Curse of the Button
Accordion – Comedy.
Friday
15th February**



**Cello Ireland with Hugh
Buckley Jazz Quintet –
Saturday
16th February**



**Greystones Film Club:
A STAR IS BORN –
Sunday
17th February**



**Juliet of Verona – Making
Waves Youth Theatre
Friday 22nd –
Sunday 24th Feb.**



**Met Opera Screening:
La Fille du Régiment –
Saturday
2nd March**



**Women at the Whale: A
night of female voices for
International Women's Day
2019 – Friday 8th March**



**Temptress –
Drama by Philip St John
Saturday
9th March**



**Bolshoi Ballet Screening:
The Sleeping Beauty –
Sunday
10th March**



**To Shorten the Road –
by Dry Rain Theatre
Friday
15th March**



**Christy Dignam &
Joe Jewell: Some Songs
and Stories –
Thursday 21st March**



**THE TIDE
By Tara Maria Lovett –
Friday
22nd March**



**As You Like It –
by Arc Light Drama Studio
– Saturday 23rd
and Sunday 24th March**

BRINGING THE ARTS TO LIFE IN GREYSTONES. 01 2010550



Pictured are Art, Craft and Design students, Shona Doyle and Laura Setlere at the BIFE Open Day in Bray last Friday.

'SPIRALLING COST OF NATIONAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL A DISGRACE'

Fianna Fáil spokesperson on Health, Stephen Donnelly TD, has heavily criticised the overruns on the National Children's Hospital, and expressed disbelief that no one has been held accountable, despite the fact that the cost of the project has more than doubled from its original price tag.

Deputy Donnelly was commenting following the Joint Health Committee Meeting which heard from the National Paediatric Hospital Development Board. The Board addressed reports that the construction costs are expected to exceed €1.4 billion.

Deputy Donnelly explained, "Per bed the new Children's Hospital will now be twice as expensive as the second most expensive hospital in the world. That proves the Board has failed completely and catastrophically to manage this project financially. I was astounded to find out at the Health Committee meeting that there has been zero accountability for any mistakes made."

"The original building cost quoted by construction firm BAM in their winning tender bid in 2016 was 637 million. Three years later the price has risen to more than a billion euro and what are we getting for that? Not a single extra bed. Not a single piece of equipment. Not a single staff salary paid. Instead we have a building project that has gone wildly over budget.

"As usual it is the

patients who will suffer. This reckless spending is going to have a drastic knock-on effect on our entire health system, draining funds from other badly needed projects. The complete mismanagement of the whole situation is a damning indictment of a Government that has lost control of the country's health care.

"I believe further questions need to be answered by the Health Minister, with whom the buck stops. Of course we need a National Children's Hospital, but the taxpayer and indeed service users need to know that they are getting the best value and quality for their money," concluded Deputy Donnelly.

Social Democrat, Cllr Jennifer Whitmore said "I really don't know how the spiralling costs of the NCH have come as a surprise to any public representative to be honest. Cost increases were identified as a risk with this hospital by the 'Connolly for Kids' group back in 2015. In fact, they predicted that the final cost of the hospital would be circa €2bn, primarily due to difficulties building on such a

small, city-centre site, and it very much looks like their predictions were correct.

"I have been a long-term critic of the decision to locate the NCH at St. James's Hospital and campaigned with the 'Connolly for Kids' group to try to get the decision to build at James's reversed. I always felt that it was the wrong location for a number of reasons. These include fears around sick children getting stuck in traffic jams when trying to access care; a lack of space for the hospital to grow; a lack of green space for patients; and the fact that this hospital is unable to take coastguard helicopters. Best practise would dictate that the NCH will be co-located with a maternity hospital, and yet plans for a maternity hospital at this site have yet to be finalised.

"I also have concerns for the children of Wicklow, as the NCH at St. James's will become the Accident and Emergency hospital for all children in Wicklow. Tallaght Children's will be downgraded to an urgent care centre, which will only deal

with non-emergency cases and will be a daytime facility. This means that a child in Arklow, for example, will have to travel 80kms and drive into the centre of a major city to access emergency care. This is not good enough and I have serious concerns about the implications of this. In 2016, I brought forward a motion in Wicklow County Council that we write to Minister Harris to request that he reverse the decision to build at St. James's and instead locate the hospital in Blanchardstown, off the M50. Unfortunately, I did not get enough support at that time to win the vote."

Cllr Whitmore continued "Fast forward to 2019, and we are now facing the reality of the concerns that were raised years ago by myself and thousands of other people across the country. There needs to be accountability as to how the decision to locate the hospital at St. James's was made, and someone must be answerable to the wastage of tax payers money on a hospital built in the wrong location."

Calls for co-working hubs as half of commuters want to stay in Wicklow

Social Democrats Candidate for Wicklow, Cllr. Jennifer Whitmore has called on Wicklow County Council to prioritise the development of co-working hubs across Wicklow county, following the publishing of the results of the Council's commuting survey.

Speaking at last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Whitmore said "we are a commuter county, but we need to try to minimize that as much as we can."

The survey report states that "respondents were receptive to the idea of remote working, with 48% saying that they would be likely or very likely to consider working from an e-hub or tele-working location in County Wicklow."

Speaking after last week's meeting, Cllr. Whitmore said "This is a very significant finding and I believe that WCC should prioritise and facilitate the development of co-working hubs. Hubs would allow some commuters to 'work from home', and this would ease the pressure on our public transport and road network. It would mean a reduced carbon footprint for people. It would give families a much better work-life balance and allow people the time to spend with their families or contribute to their communities. I also believe that it would be a game changer for our towns and villages, as it would mean that people would be working, lunching and shopping in their towns again. And, of course, this would revitalise our local economies. This really is a

win-win situation.

"However, it is important to provide the right kind of facilities in a co-working space in order to make it attractive to commuters. It would need to have tele- and video-conferencing facilities, meeting rooms and canteen area. Preferably it would be in a central location, near public transport.

"I also believe that a creche facility should be provided to encourage and facilitate parents, mainly women, to return to the workforce. A drop-in creche would be the best model in my opinion, as it would provide flexibility for parents and would mean that they could even just use the hub to hold a meeting, whilst their child was being minded elsewhere in the building. This would be the first time this approach has been used, and I think it is this kind of innovative service that would ensure the success of the hub."

Cllr Whitmore continued "I have previously developed a proposal in relation to the building of these co-working hubs across the county and have had discussions with WCC about the possibility of getting funding for them. Hopefully, the work done as part of this survey will provide the evidence required to success-

fully get government funding for these important facilities."

Speaking about West Wicklow, Cllr Edward Timmins said "co-working space interests me in the west of the county, as we don't have a train network.

"Wicklow's high commuter numbers puts us in a position to demand investment."

Cllr Timmins suggested the old Courthouse in Baltinglass as one option for a co-working space. "It's right bang in the centre of town which is the best place to have it and there's ample parking nearby as well," he said. "I would urge that, given the statistics that we can now present, Wicklow should be in a strong position to look for investment in co-working."

Speaking at last week's meeting, Chief Executive Frak Curran said there will be "state-of-the-art co-working as part of the Arklow core project in the Courthouse in Arklow so we'll have to set it up as a model. There's a private operator in Wicklow town and Enterprise Park in Wicklow Town, but we need them in other towns as well, there's grants with Enterprise Ireland competitive fund and urban regeneration fund so we'll have a look at in terms of Bray, Greystones and Blessington."

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RATHDRUM PUPILS WIN BIODIVERSITY COMPETITION

Fianna Fáil TD Stephen Donnelly has congratulated Rathdrum school children who've been crowned the winners of a nationwide biodiversity competition.

St Saviour's N.S. Rathdrum scooped top prize last week in the competition run by the Irish Wildlife Trust with their entry which focused on the work the school has been doing to protect animal habitats.

Deputy Donnelly said, "The children have really made a huge difference to their local environment. They've been extremely creative and dedicated countless hours to ingenious ideas like bat

boxes, bug hotels and hedgehog homes. They've also spent a lot of time cleaning up litter and improving recycling facilities on the school grounds."

The winning projects, displayed on the Website of the Irish Wildlife Trust, were chosen by public vote. Rathdrum got 7,836 votes earning them the top spot, followed by St Colman's Community College in Middleton in Co Cork

which got 3,726 and Gaelscoil Charraig Uí Leighin in Dublin that got 3,258 votes.

Stephen Donnelly added, "I'm delighted that the pupils are getting positive reinforcement like this. It gives them incredible feedback proving how worthwhile their efforts are."

"In many ways children are far more progressive when it comes to environmental issues than adults. Those of us who grew up

in a pre-recycling era aren't as conscious of our personal impact on the world around us. That is something we need to re-educate ourselves about, of course. But children now have the opportunity to make environmental awareness a normal part of their everyday lives. Hopefully it will become an innate skill which they can pass down to their own children, making all our futures brighter."

These funds will go directly to the Men's Shed's to enable individual Shed's to update their facilities by purchasing equipment or by carrying out minor works to improve their shed.

Men's Sheds to benefit from funding

A number of Men's Sheds organisations in Co. Wicklow have been approved for funding totalling €14,600 from the Department of Rural and Community Development. In total 310 Men's Sheds across the country are to receive funding, 11 of which are based in Co. Wicklow.

In Wicklow, men's sheds to receive funding are; Arklow €1,591.00 for Tools and projects; Avoca €1,200 for facilities for cookery lessons, wood-work training skills and improve electricity appliances; Balinglass €1,400 for door electricity and hand basin, Blessington €1,200 for workshop equipment and computer, Greystones €1,400 for upgrade facilities with heating, and Newtownmounkennedy and Newcastle €1,900 for polly tunnel and log splitter. Rathnew got €2,200 for shed and saw, Roundwood €2,000 for renovating shed, Shelton Abbey €1,500 for power tools, cameras and nesting boxes, Tinahely €1,300 for polly tunnel, and Wicklow €1700 for PC workstation, computer and software.

become a vital part many towns and villages here in Wicklow, by providing a safe, comfortable and inclusive environment where men of all ages can share their skills and connect with their communities through the projects they work on. They are a great example of a positive community based organisation that promotes good citizenship through good work.

Minister Doyle added, "The Men's Shed is a unique organisation which combines community education and health promoting activities to enhance the wellbeing of its members. I want to commend

the work that is being done by so many Men's Shed organisations locally across Wicklow and positive impact the organization has on its members."

Elaine Willis, Fianna Fáil election Candidate for Greystones, said "It gives me great pleasure to have worked with Men's Sheds throughout County Wicklow and I have seen first-hand the wonderful work they do, from making garden furniture, school benches, growing fruit and vegetables, doing Computer Courses and the many other wonderful things they do. They frequently do exhibitions of their own work. They

get involved in St Patrick's Day Parades, Christmas Festivities and much more.

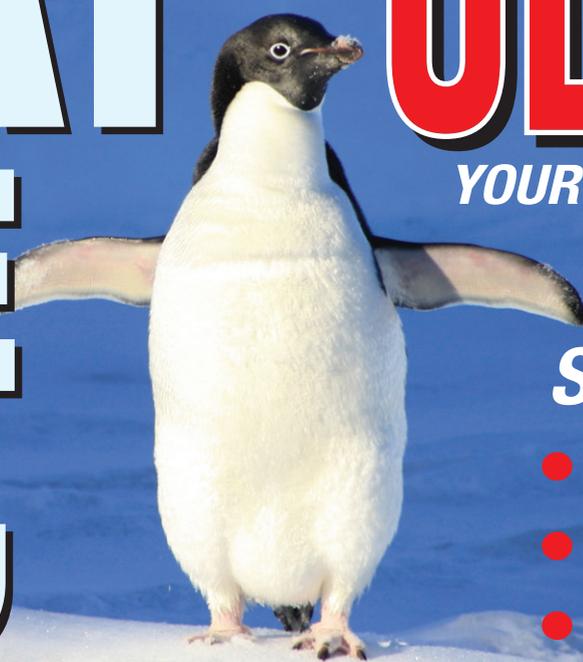
"This organisation has grown from strength to strength and if you want to drop in to your local Men's Shed for a chat and a cup of tea, everyone is welcome. They are an integral part of our communities and I hope they continue to grow. Men of all ages are very welcome and opening hours vary in each Shed.

"Don't be shy, pop into your local Men's Shed and see how you can get involved, maybe you have a skill that you would like to share with very willing participants."



Pat Cronin of the Vale of Avoca Men's Shed

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WAR ON WASTE!

In recent years, Wicklow, more than any other county in Ireland, has been plagued by illegal dumping, both on a commercial and household scale.

However, there is simply no need for this kind of irresponsible and filthy behaviour that ruins this beautiful county's landscape and wrecks havoc on the environment. Today in Co. Wicklow, there is a wide range of rubbish removal, skip and site excavation companies that can ensure your waste is removed cleanly, safely and legally. Whether you're environmentally savvy or a complete novice at recycling, now is the time to start doing that extra bit for the environment and you will be helping Wicklow win the war

on waste. Recycling conserves our valuable natural resources. Recycling helps to conserve our natural resources such as oil, metal and water. For example plastic bottles can be recycled into new plastic bottles and polyester fibres for use in fleece jumpers and car mats.

By recycling we reduce the amount of natural resources needed to make products and packaging. Also less mining and extraction occurs, which is beneficial to the natural habitats of wild animals.

Recycling protects the environment. Recycling helps to conserve energy, so less greenhouse gases are emitted. Recycling reduces our dependence on landfill. With less materials going to landfill, less harmful emissions like methane gas are released into the earth's atmosphere.

By putting more recyclable materials into your recycling bin you reduce the amount of times you have to put your general refuse or black bin out for collection. There is a wide range of services and facilities to recycle domestic waste. As well as reducing the volume of waste going to landfill sites, recycling and composting your domestic waste helps to minimise waste collection charges.

Many of the items used in the home can be recycled. The benefits of recycling include a cleaner environment, the safe disposal of hazardous materials, greater awareness of excess packaging and a careful approach to the use and re-use of materials.

Many products carry international recycling symbols that help to identify how they can be re-used and/or disposed of safely.



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MULTIMETALS - Waste Metal Recycling Facility

Leading waste metal recycling facility Multimetals has been in business for over 10 years.

Through challenging times, Multimetals has adapted and survived, and remains an important local employer and contributor to the local economy. The company also regularly reaches out to local schools and young people, through fundraising and awareness projects.

Located in the Murrough Industrial Estate, Multimetals is a family run company, and specialises in the recovery and recycling of scrap metals, both ferrous and non ferrous, collected from farmers, demolition sites, factory clearouts and larger volumes from industrial customers. This is carried out in an environmentally sound and sustainable manner. Multimetals prides themselves on operating a friendly efficient service and a responsible work culture.

Over the years Multimetals has invested heavily in modern technology and achieved the ISO9002 accreditation which means their metal waste is now classified as a product. It also puts a quality stampwork on their product, which opened up their export



business further afield to countries in the Far East such as China, Vietnam and Indonesia. Through economically challenging times, there has been continual re-investment in plant machinery and people, leading to the company not only surviving but also expanding. It now employs 15 people, most of whom are local.

All waste materials are accepted, with immediate payment to the customer

upon receipt of goods. As part of their many services they can provide skips of various sizes to be dropped off and collected free of charge to collect metal waste from any location in the greater Wicklow and Dublin area.

They can also arrange for collection of larger bulkier items with all appropriate documentation and insurances provided upon request. Other specialist services include

on-site clearance and disassembly of fixed metal structures by means of specialised machinery, cutting and burning equipment.

When a container of metal arrives, it is first weighed and then deposited on site. The deposited material is then moved to the shredding and shearing section. Once reduced to small segments it is then separated into ferrous and non-ferrous piles. This is done by passing an Eddy Current magnet over the metal. This will recognize the non-ferrous material and separate it from the ferrous material.

As a family run business Multimetals Recycling Ltd continually strives to provide a professional reliable recovery service to the people and businesses in Co Wicklow and beyond, as well as supporting local sporting

and community based projects such as fundraising 'Scrap Saturdays' held at local schools and clubs. Among the jobs filled by local workers at Multimetals are crane drivers, truck drivers, maintenance, machine operators, pickers, and graders.

Managing Director of Multimetals Stephen Cullen told *Wicklow Times* that he is grateful for the support the company has received over the years. "I would like to thank our customers and our hardworking staff for their support. This support allows us to employ 15 local people and keep investing in the company."

Multimetals is located in the Murrough Industrial Estate, just off the Port Access Road and is open to the public from Monday to Friday 7.30am - 5pm and Saturdays 8am - 1pm. For further information contact them on 0404 64934 or info@multimetals.ie

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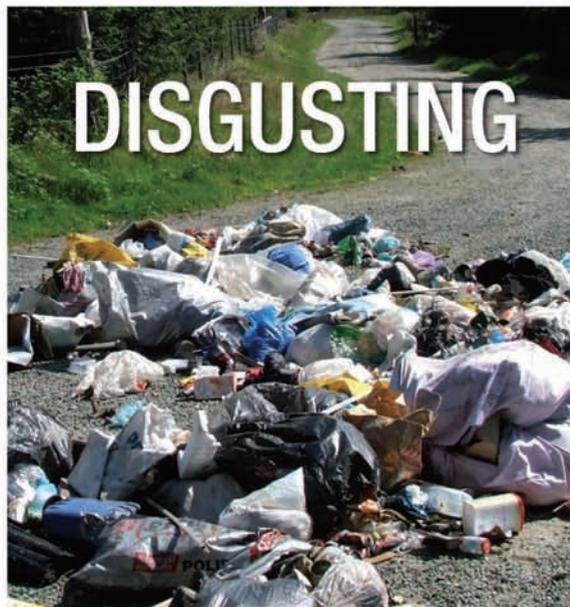
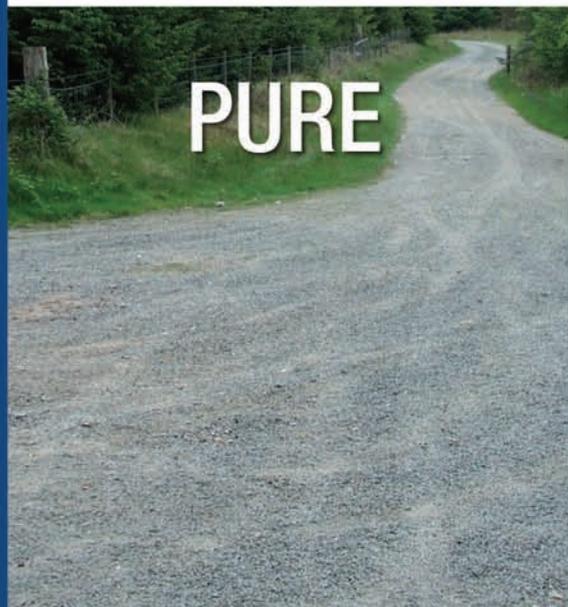
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Students on BIFE'S Supervision in Childcare course, Tanya Goggins, Sarah Walsh, Rebecca Garton, Sheila O'Brien, Shauna Fisher, and Monica Villa at the BIFE Open Day last Friday

Arklow's dementia friendly garden nominated for award

Arklow Municipal District has been shortlisted as a finalist in the 2019 All Ireland Community & Council Awards for their project - "Moments in Time" - Dementia Friendly Garden - under the category for Best Community Health Initiative.

The garden, titled "Moments in Time", was one of the key attractions at the 2018 Bord Bia's Bloom in Dublin's Phoenix Park. It was designed by Newtown Saunders Ltd of Baltinglass, along with TrinityHaus and Sonas apc.

The project is an initiative of the Dementia: Understand Together campaign, led by the HSE in partnership with the Alzheimer Society of Ireland and Genio, which aims to create an Ireland that embraces and includes people with dementia, and which displays solidarity with them and their loved ones.

The campaign had invited applications from publicly-funded organisations and residential care centres nationwide to take ownership of the garden once its time at Bord Bia's Bloom had come to an end. Arklow Municipal District, with the support of the Lily of the Valley Day Centre, Arklow Tidy Towns and the Arklow Town Team, was successful in its application to provide a new home for the garden at Seaview Avenue in Arklow Town.

Studies have shown that welcoming, accessible outdoor spaces support people with dementia and their carers to have positive interactions, maintain their independence, engage in meaningful occupation and experience enhanced health and well-being.

The 2019 All Ireland Community & Council Awards are presented by IPB Insurance and LAMA (the Local Authority Member's Association) to recognise and celebrate the outstanding work being carried out by Local Authorities and Communities all over Ireland.

Commenting on the nomination, the Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District, Cllr Miriam Murphy stated: "I am delighted that Arklow Municipal District has been recognised nationally by this nomination and I would like to congratulate all involved. It is recognition of the fact that so many people in the local authority and the community are delivering great projects on a daily basis."

Winners will be announced at an Awards ceremony which takes place on Saturday, 9th February 2019 in the Hogan Suite, Croke Park Stadium.



Anam Cara Wicklow

The Anam Cara monthly Wicklow meeting for bereaved parents takes place on Monday 21st January in the Parkview Hotel Newtownmountkennedy, at 7:20 p.m.

This meeting is only for parents who have lost children. Anam Cara Wicklow offers a safe and comfortable setting. The evening is free and open to all bereaved parents, regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not. Full details can be found at: www.anamcara.ie. Topics include: A Dad's Grief, Sudden and Traumatic Death, The Grieving Family. All services are provided free of charge.

Young Whistlers Training

Cumann na mBunscol Wicklow will hold their first Young Whistler course for Hurling/Camogie on Thursday, 7th February, 3:30 - 4:45 p.m. in Kilcoole Primary School (in the hall of St. Brigid's building, the junior building).

The course on February 7th will be for schools in the north-east region and will be co-ordinated by Philip Campion, Games Development Officer, and will be supported by Camogie representatives.

As places are limited please let Claire Frawley, Runaí know as soon as possible if your school would like to participate. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Schools are asked to send a 5th class boy and a girl on the day. Please forward her the names of the children involved along with their parent/guardian's names and contact numbers. Tea/Coffee will be provided for parents/guardians.

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JOIN THE CLUB

It's 2019 and many of us are still feeling the effects of those food binges over the festive period. Everywhere people are asking "How was your Christmas?". More often than not the answer is "Great, but I ate too much". So whether you are trying to drop those extra holiday pounds or you just fancy trying your hand at something new, then joining a club may be the right idea for you. And in Co. Wicklow, there are plenty of clubs to choose from.



Christmas period, participation in a club is a great, inexpensive way to get out and socialize. Besides the many benefits of getting fit, there is also the added benefit of just 'turning off' for a few hours every week.

There are a huge amount of clubs of all types and sizes around Co. Wicklow that can accommodate a myriad of interests. Joining a

everything from public speaking, reading, chess, gardening, to more business oriented groups that meet for professional reasons. Sometimes membership can be free, or paid monthly or weekly in a payment plan.

For those into sports, there are a wide variety of options available, and Wicklow boasts a multitude of active and thriving sports

January is a great time to think of taking up a new hobby or joining a club. Many clubs run special offers and deals at this time of year.

You won't be alone either as many other people will have had the same idea. Why not see if a friend or co-worker wants to come along with you, some

clubs offer discounted membership for people joining together.

As well as participating in an activity, clubs offer a social aspect and many hold events with some even having their own clubhouse. Family memberships are available in many clubs, particularly sporting clubs. With money tight for many people after the



club is a great way to meet new people while building your confidence, learning a new skill or taking part in a sport. Joining a club is a great way to expand your knowledge and experience in a particular sport or hobby you are passionate about.

Joining a club also looks good on your CV, showing you to be a sociable and active person, and is a great chance to make friends who share your specialist interests.

From children to senior citizens, there should be something in the area to fit the bill. Many clubs in the garden county are formed around various sports but there are clubs for

clubs. From outdoor sports such as tennis and football, to indoor sports such as badminton and table tennis, there is sure to be a local sports club nearby where you can participate in your pre-



ferred pastime. For those who might be less passionate about sports but who still want to keep fit, joining a fitness club might be an alternative option to take. If your passion is dance, joining a dance class is the way to go.

There is a large variety of clubs in Co Wicklow to choose from for people of all ages, interests and abilities. Every kind of club from sports to social are right under your nose so why not turn off the television and sign up today. Take

Greystones Lawn Tennis Club

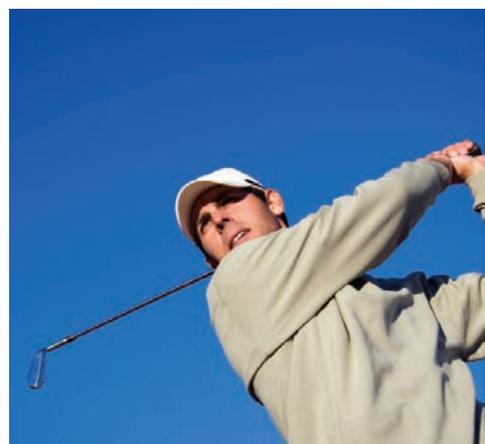
Membership of Greystones Lawn Tennis Club is now available at excellent new lower rates; €360 for adults, €600 for couple membership, €660 for family membership, just €135 for junior membership and only €30 for Under 8s.

Research has shown that tennis is the best sport to help you live a long, healthy life and it can start for you right here, right now!

Greystones Lawn Tennis Club has 12 floodlit outdoor courts, an impressive clubhouse, excellent changing facilities, function rooms, a commercial grade kitchen, conference and meeting room facilities with full bar and lounge areas for function and social use. Members also enjoy great social events.

The tennis club is located on Mill Road in Greystones.

To join please email admin@greystonesltc.com or pick up an application form in the club.



ARKLOW GERALDINES BALLYMONEY GAA CLUB

Registration Day 2019
Saturday 9th February - 12.00 to 4.00
St Marys College Sport's Hall, Arklow
Come Join the Fun and make friends with AGB
New Players are always Welcome

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Failte Park, Adelaide Road, Bray
Stress-free way to get fit whilst enjoying fresh air
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Phone Frank Devlin on **086 / 3534673**

Bray Wheelers

Bray Wheelers will hold their Open Night on Wednesday 30th January at 7pm, in their clubhouse on Schools Road in Bray.

Come along to get an overview of the club's activities, such as; Couch to 50km series; Intro to group cycling; Leisure activities; Racing programme; Coaching sessions; Social - 70th anniversary; Youth and juniors; Women's and men's cycling; Bike maintenance tips.

The Couch to 50km series is a six-week cycle plan, taking place every Sunday morning at 10am: February 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, March 3rd and 10th. It is ideal for those looking to lose weight in a fun way, get fitter and meet new people. It is an Introductory programme with experienced female and male ride leaders chosen to get you confident for a 50km ride. It is free for Bray Wheelers members, for Non-members the first three rides are free, then you are welcome to join the club (annual leisure membership is €40). To sign-up email edwinabeirne@hotmail.com or visit braywheelers.com for more info.

Bray Wheelers Open Night
Wed 30th Jan 2019 at 7pm

Overview of club activities

- > Couch to 50km series
- > Intro to group cycling
- > Leisure activities
- > Racing programme
- > Coaching sessions
- > Social - 70th anniversary
- > Youth and juniors
- > Women's and men's cycling
- > Bike maintenance tips

Clubhouse, Schools Road, Bohall, Bray, Co Wicklow
www.braywheelers.com

New Members Welcome

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a look at the adverts below to see if any of these clubs fit the bill for you.

Greystones Table Tennis Club
NEW MEMBERS WELCOME
Contact Paddy Martin 086 3485843 for further details
Bring this ad and receive a SPECIAL DEAL on membership fees!

Greystones Lawn Tennis Club
Mill Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow 01- 287 6505
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Research suggests that Tennis is the best sport to help you live a long, healthy life and it can start for you right here, right now!
Quality coaching available to get you off to a great start

It's a great sport for the family to enjoy together

Annual rates:
Adults €360 Couples €600 Families: €660
Juniors €135 Under 8's now only €30

Learn, live and love tennis
To join - email admin@greystonesltc.com or pick up a form in the club

WICKLOW YOUNG SCIENTISTS AWARDS

A number of projects from Wicklow students won prizes at the 55th BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition held recently in the RDS.



Pictured at the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition 2019 Awards Ceremony in the RDS Dublin is Minister Helen McEntee TD Minister of State for European Affairs presenting the Self Help Africa and Irish Aid Science for Development Award to Sean Byrne from Avondale Community College, Wicklow for his project 'An Eggshell Filtration System to Remove Pollutants from Water' in the Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences Senior Individual Category

The Science for Development Award was given to Sean Byrne from Avondale Community College for developing an eggshell filtration system to remove pollutants from water.

Seán (18) also picked up Self Help Africa's 'Science for Development Award' and will receive an Irish Aid sponsored travel bursary that will allow him to travel to Africa to further his project work.

Seán, who is a 'veteran' of the BT Young Scientist Expo, having entered projects in each of the past four years. He had previously collected a second prize for a science project he had submitted to the annual schools science fair.

"The beauty of this filtration system is that it's low cost, energy efficient. It also promotes sustainability since we're recycling eggshells! In addition, it can be made out of any material. My prototype uses glassware, but any locally available material could be used, such as wood or plastic," he added.

"I'm excited about the opportunity to go to Africa. It's a huge honour to go abroad and discover a new country. I'll definitely bring my project and test it. But I want to

do a bit more work on my project first, so that it suits better the country I'll visit!" said Seán.

"I am still exploring ways that this innovative filtration system could also remove micro-plastics from water," added the student, who is hoping to start a Chemical Engineering degree in university next year.

"I'm in sixth year now so I knew that it was my last year entering the BT Young Scientist contest. I really wanted to end it with an award, so I'm absolutely delighted, and proud," Seán said.

The Avondale student developed a project that used eggshells as a filtration system to remove pollutants from water. Seán said he got the inspiration for his project after he read an article about the absorbent properties of eggshells:

"I found that eggshells have an affinity for heavy metal ions. It means that they can chemically attract toxic ions from the water and remove them," he explained.

"First, the water is put through a sand filter to remove any suspended solids. Then it goes through vessels that contain eggshells, which is where the purifying process happens. The last stage involves using UV

lights and a second sand filter to further clean the water," he explained.

Seán says his experiments have shown that the invention is capable of removing almost 100% of metal contaminants present in water, including copper, lead and chromium.

"I am aware that contaminated water is a global problem. In developing countries, 14,000 people die each day because of water pollution. I wanted to help find a solution to that problem," said Seán, who thinks his prototype could be used in the developing world.

The Biological and Ecological Junior Individual 2nd place award went to Rian Byrne from Colaiste Chill Mhantain, for his project which looked at Hydroxymethylfurfuraldehyde (HMF) levels in honey and its effect on the quality of honey and human health. Rian also won a Special Award from the Food Safety Authority for his project.

It is the first year for the FSAI to provide a special award at the event and it was awarded in recognition of the best project to show potential to protect the health of consumers in the area of food safety. It was selected from a total of 550 projects at the exhibition this year.

Dr Pamela Byrne, Chief Executive, FSAI, said: "We are delighted to participate in the BT Young Scientist Awards this year. Rian's project was extremely impressive and shows a level of innovation which was very deserving of this award. Rian's attention to detail and hard work is

inspiring. It was an excellent, well thought through project that he should be very proud of."

The Technology Intermediate Group 2nd place award went to Aimee Bodell, Marguerite O'Donovan and Leah Weldon from St. Mary's College, Arklow, for their project to create a safer vehicle initiative, using a device, when submerged in water, a waterproof electrical system will open windows to save lives. The project also earned them the Road Safety Authority (RSA) Special Award. The Biological and Ecological Junior Individual 3rd place award went to Amelie Moore from St.

Gerard's, Bray, for a project which investigated the incidence and impact of microplastics on Irish farms.

The Housing Agency Special Award went to Liadain O'Sullivan from St. Mary's College for investigating the link between architecture and psychology and if cities can be used to enhance the wellbeing of their residents. A number of highly commended awards were also given out to Wicklow students; to Ella Devereux from St. Mary's College for an analysis of assessment waiting times, age of diagnosis and provision of services for autism spectrum disorder children in Ireland; to Rory

Mulcahy and Killian Bourke from Presentation College for examining the feasibility and possible application of water harvesting in Irish schools; to Ethna Vondrys from St. Gerard's for identifying whether an object found two days after Storm Ophelia on Killiney Beach was genuine amber; to Sean Byrne from Avondale Community College for his Eggshell Filtration project; to Aisling Byrne from Avondale Community College for investigating if dairy farmers are wasting money on footbath solutions.



Pictured at the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition 2019 Awards Ceremony in the RDS Dublin are Ruth Murphy, Legal Director, BT who presented the Biological and Ecological Category Junior Individual 2nd place award to Rian Byrne, Colaiste Chill Mhantain, Wicklow for his project 'Will Hydroxymethylfurfuraldehyde (HMF) Levels in Honey Affect: 1) The Quality of Honey and 2) Effects of the Honey on Human Health.' Rian also picked up the Food Safety Authority of Ireland Award during the ceremony in the RDS Dublin.



Pictured at the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition 2019 Awards Ceremony in the RDS Dublin is Ruth Murphy, Legal Director, BT presenting the Technology Intermediate Group Category 2nd place award to Aimee Bodell, Marguerite O'Donovan and Leah Weldon from St Mary's College Wicklow for their project 'Want a Safe Car? WHEEL Get Right on That!' The group also picked up the Road Safety Authority Award for their project during the ceremony in Dublin.



Pictured at BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition 2019 Awards Ceremony in the RDS Dublin are Ruth Murphy, Legal Director, BT who presented the Biological and Ecological Category Junior Individual 3rd place award to Amelie Moore, St Gerard's, Wicklow for her project 'To investigate the incidence and impact of microplastics on Irish farms.'



Pictured at the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition 2019 Awards Ceremony in the RDS Dublin is John O'Connor, Chief Executive Officer The Housing Agency presenting the Housing Agency Award to Liadain O'Sullivan, St Mary's College, Arklow, Co Wicklow for her project 'How to Build Happiness'

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Pictured: Kerrie Reid, Robert Donnelly, and Joanne Logue at the rehearsals for the Avonmore Musical Society's new show '9 to 5', in St. Mary's Hall, Arklow.

Education Minister to visit Greystones school

Minister of Education Joe McHugh will visit St David's secondary school in Greystones on the 7th of February.

Minister of Education Joe McHugh will visit St David's secondary school in Greystones on the 7th of February.

Welcoming the news, Stephen Donnelly TD explained, "This visit has

been a long time coming and promises to be a great opportunity for the Minister to see for himself just how badly St David's needs an extension. Planning permission was granted in September

2016 by Wicklow County Council but we've yet to see work commence.

"This refurbishment has been beset by delays. Objections to the development by locals, who were worried about the building's height and traffic impact, were examined by An Bord Pleanála but it went ahead with planning permission in July 2017. Finally funding was approved in December 2017 by the Department of Education but we had to wait until last week before we found out that the refurbishment will start next July. The plans include a new sports centre, five new classrooms, a new technology room and a media room.

"I've been working alongside St David's principal Mary O'Doherty who has been fighting incredibly hard for her pupils. She began the planning process back in 2012 and was told the building phase should take around 21 months to conclude. When it looked inevitable that was not going to happen, I immediately began asking questions of the Minister for Education. Initially I submitted Parliamentary Questions to try to force the department to provide answers. I then stepped up the action by calling for a meeting in person with the Minister Richard Bruton. Since my first request there has been a Cabinet reshuffle, we now have a new Minister for Education in Joe McHugh, and yet still no meeting.

"The last meeting, which was supposed to take place in the Minister's office in November, was called off just hours before we sat down together. Hopefully

this time there will be no cancellations.

"At this stage it has to be said the delay is simply unacceptable. Planning permission has been granted. The funding is in place. It should be a straight forward process of letting builders do the work. Remember every day that passes sees pupils spending their education in an outdated premises that's not fit for purpose. There is some good news however, if the upgrade goes ahead as planned an extra 30 pupils could be accepted into St David's this September", concluded Donnelly.

'RSES TAKES POWER AWAY FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES'

The submission deadline for the public consultation phase of the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) ends this week on 23rd January.

The RSES will override the core strategy of Wicklow County Council's Development Plan, making it necessary for the Council to devise a new one. Cllr Gerry O'Neill was critical of the RSES when it was discussed at last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council, saying that it's "taking power away from Local Authorities".

Senior Planner at the Council, Sorcha Walsh, said that the Council is making a number of submissions. These include clarification on whether 20% of Dublin's projected population growth will be allocated to Bray, Maynooth and Swords; requesting significant improvements to bus and rail transport services; the inclusion of Wicklow's film industry in the Economic Strategy for the region and mentioning of Co. Wicklow's 'Green/Blue assets' (walking trails, shoreline water activities, etc) in the regional plan - including promotion of the Blessington Greenway.

"A number of the green and blue assets in Wicklow aren't mentioned in the regional plan, for example maritime towns and beaches like Wicklow town aren't even mentioned. The River Slaney system isn't mentioned, the Blessington Greenway isn't mentioned on the main table on this, so we feel we need to make a strong submission to identify assets we want to promote in Wicklow," said Ms Walsh. "With regard to key growth towns, Bray, Wicklow and Rathnew are the key growth towns, there's a small paragraph on each, this means it is selling the towns short and this plan should be an opportunity for us to promote these towns and show what assets they actually have."

Protest & Riot by Michael Ross

As a visual artist, Michael Ross uses captured moments to trigger open questions; rather than telling a story, he presents the viewer with a snapshot that allows them to fill in the blanks, letting the story grow organically in the mind of the viewer. In doing so, Ross highlights the subjective nature of human inquiry.

His exhibition 'Protest and Riot' will run in the Signal Arts Centre in Bray from Monday 21st January to Sunday 3rd February.

The possibilities are dangerous, menacing and at times eerie, as though each moment we are presented with is a knife-edge, a critical point stripped bare of context for us as viewers to examine and assign our own values and judgements to. Full of anxious potentialities, the imagery springs from a

position of rage, of indignation, of social and personal unrest.

The people he portrays occupy a dangerous, but passionate space. They are shown engaged in brute reality; self-absorbed and consumed by either the urgency of response to opposition or the motivation of their cause. The narrative tension is at a breaking point;

Ross offers you a window into the critical moment and then steps back, how you interpret the work, and whether you do so



with impassioned commentary but as a catalyst for introspective conflict.

Opening Reception Friday 25th January, 7pm - 9pm.



Deputy Stephen Donnelly with St David's principal Mary O'Doherty.

The Remedy Club

See The Remedy Club in the Hot Sport above the Beach House at Greystones Harbour Marina, on 27th January.

Remedy Club are a husband and wife American/Roots duo, Ki McEvoy and Aileen Mythen. They are an exciting and captivating couple. Performances veer from intimate and soulful to full on 'hoedown'. Don't miss what is promised to be a fantastic evening of American & Roots music, with a hint of Country and Blues. Conor O'Donnell, special guest local musician, will open the evening, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Admission free. Suggested donation €5. Full details from www.thehotspot.ie, 087 2917519.



Pictured is Robin Bradley, Wicklow Town and District Chamber of Commerce President, presenting a donation of €1,310 to the fundraising branch at Wicklow RNLi Lifeboat Station.

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CLASSIFIEDS

- Planning
- Notices
- Prayers

THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER
 Dear Heart of Jesus in the past I have asked for many favours. This time I ask you this very special one. (Mention request) Take it, dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your broken Heart where your Father sees it. Then, in his merciful eyes it will become your favour not mine.
 Amen.
 Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and favour will be granted. Never known to fail.
B.McL.; F.M.; A.M.L.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
 I, Yubin Chen, intend to apply for permission for development at this site, 101 - 102 Main Street Bray.
 The development will consist of the demolition of existing rear first floor level retail storage area, change of use of existing first floor area from retail use and construction of rear extension to provide 2 no residential apartments, construction of new extension to ground floor retail/storage area, new shop front at ground floor level with automated door and all associated site works.
 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
 Planning permission is sought for:
 1. a proposed single storey extension to the dwelling's south elevation and associated site works.
 2. Retention permission is also sought for an office, two sheds and a glass house at Glen Cottage, Lake Road, Camaderry, Glendalough, 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 the planning authority during its public opening hours. The planning application may be viewed online at www.wicklow.ie, under planning online enquiries. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20, within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the planning authority in making a decision on the application. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions or may refuse to grant permission. Signed: Noel Quinn.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
 Superdrug Stores Ltd seeks permission for the replacement of existing rear-illuminated, brushed aluminium, retail logo signs to exterior of Bridgewater shopping centre, 7 N Quay, Ferrybank, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, Ireland, with new - updating tenant names with the addition of Superdrug logo in two locations. 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.

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