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Tuesday 5th February 2019

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# 15 ROUGH SLEEPERS

With snow on the hills in Wicklow and cold weather warnings set to become a regular feature of the next few weeks many of us look forward to heading home after a day's work, lighting the fire and getting cosy. However the same is not true for the 15 or so rough sleepers that can be found in the north Wicklow area on any given night.

Rough sleepers are not only homeless but are living rough on the streets and in recent years three rough sleepers have died on Bray streets.

Wicklow County Council says the figure of 15 is primarily obtained from local knowledge, homeless support workers, the Homeless Action Team (interagency team) and Five Loaves day centre.

So what options are available for rough sleepers this winter? Last month the Cold Weather Initiative opened a 12-bed night service in Bray. This service is a partnership between Wicklow County Council, Dublin

Simon Community and the Five Loaves Homeless Day Centre. Referrals come from Wicklow County Council, Five Loaves, Dublin Simon and the Gardaí. Wicklow County Council says that to date it is operating successfully with key support work being undertaken with clients to maximise the prospect of these clients transitioning into alternative accommodation.

Jackie Carroll, Senior Executive Officer with Wicklow County Council's Housing and Corporate Estate department told *Wicklow Times* that in many cases those presenting as homeless

may have complex needs and as such, B&B emergency accommodation is deemed unsuitable in these cases.

"Wicklow County Council has developed a partnership approach to dealing with this situation with homeless service providers in the region and this collaboration has been critical in dealing with the many and complex issues that have arisen. Interagency wrap around health and welfare supports is a prerequisite for any successful long-term exit from homelessness for particular homeless cohorts, most notably those suffering from mental health and sub-



At the Wicklow County Council breakfast briefing in Druids Glen last Friday were Joe O'Connell and Shelly Hargadon from from Ashford Studios. See story on page 18

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stance misuse issues.

"Wicklow County Council has entered into Service Level Agreements with Approved Housing Bodies to provide a collaborative approach to supported accommodation (emergency and long term). This successful approach is both structured and practical in transitioning from a shelter-led to a sustainable housing-led response to homelessness."

Ms Carroll added, "There are obvious obstacles and barriers that are impeding exits from homelessness and the Homeless Team is utilising every resource and initiative available to tackle homelessness."

"Prevention of homelessness is a key focus for Wicklow County Council and the Homeless team provides advice and support to persons homeless or at risk of homelessness and engages with

landlords with a view to achieving realistic rents and sustaining tenancies."

Apart from Council supported initiatives there are charity and voluntary supports available in the Wicklow area.

Five Loaves in Bray provide nourishing meals to the homeless and marginalised people in the community at their day-care centre in Bray, with a drop in centre supplying support and advice from Monday to Friday to vulnerable people.

Bray area rough sleepers support (BARSS) is a voluntary group of people that go out to support rough sleepers seven nights a week. Their simple aim is to provide some comfort and support for rough sleepers in the Bray area. They distribute food, hot drinks and other basic essentials such as sleeping bags to those who need help.

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Pictured: Anastasia and Carol at the Wicklow Welcomes Coffee morning in the Parish Hall in Wicklow Town

## Bray Modernettes 'super stars' host tournament

The Bray Modernettes Baton Twirlers hosted a tournament in Ballywaltrim Community Centre last weekend, with clubs from Cavan, South Dublin and Tipperary competing.

Judges came from as far as Portlaoise for the competition in which children and young adults demonstrated baton twirling of the highest standards from 9am to 6pm when the prizes were given out. Bray Modernettes members claimed another haul of trophies.

Bray Modernettes members performed in solo events and pairs and team events, and everyone made their parents and coaches proud, said Bray Modernettes coach Sinead Flanagan.

"I am a very proud coach and Corp director of all of our members.



They are a credit to the club and parents," she said. "With the club getting the most 1st places they can only be described

as super stars.

"The children and young adults train so hard and long especially before competitions. Our next

competition will be coming up in maybe April and then June in Dublin and in November we should travel to Galway."

## Church concert for Cancer Research

Come along to 'A Magical Evening of Music' in St Laurence O'Toole Church Roundwood, on Sunday 10th February at 4pm.

There will be singers and musicians of all ages there to entertain with their beautiful songs and melodies. This concert is a fundraising event for The Caroline Foundation and their Give Us a Song Campaign for Cancer Research and also for Roundwood Cancer Support. There is no entry fee but all donations greatly accepted. There will also be refreshments afterwards in Roundwood Parish Hall for everyone and there will be a fabulous raffle too. Any donations of raffle prizes would be very appreciated. Please come along to support this wonderful event. Hosted by Stagebratz Starz. Please contact 0831563897 or stagebratzstarz@yahoo.com if you would like to contribute in any way.

## Bray Coffee morning

McCabe's Pharmacy in Bray are hosting a Coffee Morning in aid of Purple House Cancer Support, on Valentine's Day (Thursday 14th February). It will take place from 10am to 12:30pm.

## Table Quiz in aid of Open Door

The Sugarloaf Lions Club/Open Door Table Quiz takes place on Thursday 21st Feb at 8.00 pm in Greystones Rugby Club. A table of four costs €40.

This annual event is always great fun, with Joe Grennan acting as Quiz Master. Please come along to help fund activities for adults with physical disabilities at Open Door Day Centre. Donations of spot prizes and/or raffle prizes are most welcome. Contact Suzanne Cox on 087 6250823 or Mick Lemiha on 086 8121860 to book you place. Find out more about Open Door at [www.opendoor.ie](http://www.opendoor.ie)

## Enniskerry Youth Club AFC

Enniskerry Youth Club AFC's U11 team are looking for a couple of players this season.

The team plays in the DDSL League. If interested, get in touch with Noel (086 8822188) or contact the club on their Facebook page - 'Enniskerry Youth Club AFC'. The club has excellent facilities and qualified coaches.



Joe and Gretta Kavanagh with Maurice Corr pictured at the launch of the Book of Kells replica at the library in Arklow.

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# SUNBEAM CENTRE NON-COMPLIANT IN MOST CATEGORIES

A recent inspection of a centre for adults with disabilities operated by Sunbeam House Services in Rathdrum found the centre to be non-compliant in seven out of nine categories.

The Dunavon Centre was inspected by HIQA (Health Information and Quality Authority) in October 2018 and the inspection report was published last week. The report states that "This inspection was in response to a notification received by the Health Information and Quality Authority

(HIQA) with regard to a resident who had engaged in a prolonged incident of self injurious behaviour on 6 October resulting in significant bruising to their body. Despite these injuries the resident had not been brought to their General Practitioner (GP) for a medical review until 10 October

four days after the incident. "It was also observed that on 30 September an on call doctor reviewed the resident in the designated centre and advised the centre to make arrangements for them to see their GP the next day. This appointment was not facilitated." The inspection report

further notes issues of oversight: "the current person in charge had responsibility for three centres overall. Taking into account the issues found on this inspection and the significant complex needs of the residents, the inspectors were not assured that the arrangements in place were sufficient to provide adequate oversight of the centre."

The inspection also found that: the roster was not adequately maintained as it did not indicate the hours staff worked; some information on file was not being updated and had conflicting information in relation to records kept pertaining to some residents; the centre did not have an adequate system in place to ensure that the service provided was responsive to the needs of the residents or effectively monitored; some actions as identified in the auditing process last April had not been addressed or were incomplete; the Statement of Purpose did not accurately reflect the service being provided to the residents and the process of managing risk required review.

Responding to the Compliance Plan for Dunavon, Sunbeam House stated that they had advertised and interviewed for a full-time Person in Charge and made a job offer, and had brought in extra staff to ensure adequate monitoring of the centre until a full-time PIC was in place. SHS have also updated the roster to clearly show the hours that staff work, residents' records had been reviewed and updated along with medication protocols.

SHS also stated they had taken steps to address issues with governance and management and health care, had updated their Statement of Purpose, reviewed and updated risk assessments for each resident and implemented positive behavioural support plans.



Pictured: Grace Keogh (centre) with Zita and Adreanna and at the Wicklow Welcomes Coffee morning in the Parish Hall in Wicklow Town recently.

## Donard Garda Station to open 'within weeks'

Donard Garda Station is due to reopen within a number of weeks once some minor works are completed.

Speaking on the announcement, Minister of State Andrew Doyle outlined, "The opening of the Garda Station in Donard is welcomed news for the community of Donard, The Glen and surrounding areas.

"Last year I discussed this issue surrounding the Garda Station in Donard with my colleague Frances Fitzgerald when she was Minister for Justice. I outlined the importance of this station for the rural community in West Wicklow. With fears surrounding rural crime, we must ensure that those living in these areas are not left vulnerable.

"I have received confirmation that the building itself is currently undergoing some minor works and when this is complete the station will reopen.

"Given Donard's location, on the foothills of the Wicklow Mountains and the close proximity of the N81, the reopening of the station will be a relief to many living in the area. The closure of the station in 2013 was a huge blow to the community and I warmly welcome the decision to have this community station reopened."

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Michael Nicholson, Dick Walsh and Martina Robinson at the launch of the Book of Kells replica at the library in Arklow.

## Lucky escape after ceiling collapse at Parkview Hotel

Customers of the Parkview Hotel in Newtownmountkennedy had a lucky escape last Tuesday evening when a huge section of the ceiling came away and fell to the ground. The ceiling appeared to collapse in one piece of approx 30x30ft.

Those present felt certain that had anybody been sitting underneath they would have been killed outright. Given the size of the ceiling that fell, it is almost miraculous that nobody was walking or sitting underneath it at the time. The Parkview Hotel declined to comment, saying the matter is currently under investigation.

Several local councillors were present at the time, participating in a local GAA meeting. The incident happened at approximately 8pm. A video of the immediate aftermath of the incident was circulated shortly afterwards on social media. One councillor is heard commenting on the effect the incident would have had on the upcoming local elections, if they had been sitting just feet from their meeting table.

A customer who was present at the time of the incident told Wicklow Times, "It was an awful fright. Thank god nobody was sitting underneath. There were no serious injuries as far as I could see but a couple of people sitting close to the fall might have had a few scrapes and a bit of a bang."

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# SOCIAL WELFARE CLAIM ASSESSMENT 'A SHAMBLES'

Social Democrat Cllr. Jennifer Whitmore has branded the Social Welfare claim assessment process as a "shambles".

Cllr. Whitmore was reacting to figures that were released to Social Democrats Co-Leader Roisin Shortall TD by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, which gave details of social welfare applications that were overturned on appeal.

Cllr Whitmore said: "Questions have to be asked of a system that would appear to get it wrong on so many occasions. Figures released to Deputy Shortall show that significant numbers of applications for varying

categories of Social Welfare payments that are initially refused on application are then approved on appeal. The payments that have the highest number of decisions being overturned on appeal are for payments for people with disabilities or those caring for them. For example, over 60% of cases where a person appeals a decision to refuse Disability Allowance are overturned. There is clearly a massive problem with how the initial applications are assessed if the successful appeal rate is this high.

"Over 40% of Domiciliary Care Allowance and Invalidity Pension appeals are upheld, upwards of 35% of Disablement Benefit appeals are successful. The Minister needs to initiate a serious review of how applications for these payments are processed, there is clearly a problem when so many vulnerable people are allowed to slip through the net like this."

"There is something very wrong with decision-making systems that allow this to happen and it is causing needless concern for applicants and

more work and administrative costs for the Appeals Office. There is an obvious need for better expertise in the Department where the decisions are first examined so that time and resources are not wasted on appeals that shouldn't be necessary."

Cllr Whitmore ended by saying "I would urge anyone who was unhappy with a decision on an application for a payment such as this to make an appeal, particularly in light of the fact that the success rate of appeals is climbing."

## Gardai investigate more Bray fires

Gardai in Bray are currently investigating two recent fires which occurred in close proximity and within a week of each other.

On Wednesday, 23rd January, in the early hours of the morning, two cars parked next to each other were set on fire outside a house in Dargle Crescent. Nobody was hurt during the incident and it's believed that the fire broke out in one vehicle and then spread to the other one. The car which first caught fire was observed to be fine at approximately 1am, and the fire is believed to have occurred just one or two hours later. Gardai have not yet established any cause for the initial fire.

Five days later, on Monday 28th January at approximately 8:30pm, a fire broke out in the first floor apartment of a building in the Dargle area, in the Ashbrook section on Greenpark Road.

The fire occurred in a first-floor apartment. There was nobody in the building at the time but extensive damage was caused to the building. Fire units from Bray and Greystones battled the blaze and succeeded in containing it to just one build-

ing. This fire is also being investigated.

Gardai in Bray told Wicklow Times they do not know yet the cause of either of the fires and are not yet following any leads.

If anyone has any information they are asked to contact Bray Garda Station on (01) 666 5300 or the Garda confidential line 1800 666111.



### Peadar Tobin to hold meeting in Bray this Thursday

Cllr Oliver O'Brien and Cllr Brendan Thornhill are asking all their friends and supporters to attend a public meeting to meet the leader of AONTU the new political movement started by Peadar Tobin TD, where they will have the opportunity to discuss the future of the country and to hear Peadar Tobin's ideas for its future betterment.

"I recommend anyone interested to attend and bring a friend, it will be an interesting evening" said Brendan. Adding "Peadar Tobin to date has visited 15 counties, Thursday February 7th at the Royal Hotel Bray will be County Wicklow's turn, look forward to seeing you there"

Pictured last Saturday were Councillors Oliver O'Brien and Brendan Thornhill when they visited Bray's iconic Townhall Bookshop run by popular local historian Henry Cairns who is 'calling it a day' after 40 years of selling and exchanging second-hand books.





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Pictured: Shiela Daly, Ian Daly and Marie Lynch at the Wicklow Welcomes Coffee morning in the Parish Hall in Wicklow Town

## Whitmore selected to run for Greystones local elections

**Social Democrats councillor Jennifer Whitmore has been formally selected to run as the party's candidate in the upcoming Local Election for the Greystones Municipal District. Cllr Whitmore was new to politics when she was first elected in 2014, topping the poll in Wicklow and getting the highest female vote in the country.**

Speaking after the selection convention last week, Cllr. Whitmore said "I am delighted to have been selected as the Social Democrats candidate for the elections in May. I have been honoured to represent the people of Greystones, Delgany, Kilcoole and Newcastle over the past five years.

"One of the most enjoyable aspects of my term has been working with local communities on a broad range of projects across the District. A recent example is the Greystones' Inclusive Playground, a new standard in playgrounds where children of all ages and abilities can play together side-by-side. I am very proud to have been a part of that project, and to have worked hand-in-hand with a great local committee and Wicklow County Council to drive this important project to conclusion. Other projects that I have worked on include the widening of the paths to St. Laurence's school in



Cllr Jennifer Whitmore

Delgany, the pop-up Garda clinic in Delgany Village, jobs clubs in Kilcoole and the installation of a wheelchair accessible gate at Kilcoole train station, amongst others."

Cllr. Whitmore has also played a role in the provision of education for the area, as Chair of the Greystones CNS and as a board member of Colaiste Chraobh Abhann. "The Greystones District has had a difficult history when it comes to providing sufficient schools places for children and I have worked hard to lobby for both primary and secondary school places for the area. I am hopeful that the new

schools that are planned will meet that demand, but I will keep a close eye on this to ensure that our growth in population runs parallel to the provision of school places. I am particularly looking forward to seeing the completion of the new primary school for Charlesland, which is due to open in September of this year, and of which I am Chairperson."

Cllr. Whitmore, whose background is in environmental law and natural resource management, has also focused on environmental issues and was one of the team of specialists that fought to save the Vartry River from over-extraction. "Following on from a successful conclusion to that campaign, we have now established the East Wicklow Rivers Trust, which has the aim of protecting the river systems that rise in Wicklow and flow into the Irish Sea. The environment will continue to play a large part of my focus if re-elected. In

addition, I am very keen on continuing to work for co-working spaces for the area, and better public transport, both for commuters and residents."

Whitmore concluded "I would really like to thank everyone that has supported me over the past five years, and in particular all of the local community groups that work so hard on a voluntary basis to make sure our district is a great place to live. The greatest asset we have is our communities and I would be honoured to be able to work with them for another five years achieving positive results for our area."

So far, the Social Democrats have confirmed two candidates for the Wicklow local elections in May - Cllr. Jennifer Whitmore for the Greystones Municipal District and Dave McGinn in the Baltinglass constituency. They are planning on fielding more candidates in Wicklow over the coming months.

# SURPRISES IN BRAY LOCAL ELECTION

## Three sitting councillors not to run

**With just under four months until the local elections, the Bray Municipal District is shaping up to be one of the more interesting constituencies to watch, with big changes in store for the new Council.**

The decision was taken last year by the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee to divide the Bray District into two four-seat electoral areas, known as Bray West (including Enniskerry, Kilmacanogue and Powerscourt) and Bray East (including most of the town and seafront area). Together they will form an eight-seat Bray Municipal Borough District.

The big news for the Bray area is the retirement of three big names from the existing Council, who will not contest the election in May. Councillor Pat Vance (FF) presumably thought there is no better time to bow out than as Cathaoirleach of both Wicklow County Council and Bray Municipal District.

Councillor John Ryan (FG) shocked supporters

last week by making the decision to bow out. Councillor Ryan, who is CEO of Great Place to Work, said the demands of his job meant he could not give the role the time and attention it deserved. He said he remains passionate about Bray and hopes that any new councillors will put the interests of the town first. "I'm a little frustrated that I won't get to see projects that I worked on come to fruition, such as the Florentine Centre and the 42 houses at Ballywaltrim but I'm confident that they are on track." Councillor Ryan said he would be canvassing for new Fine Gael candidates.

Rumours have been circulating that Independent Councillor Christopher Fox has made the decision not to contest this election, however numerous calls to

Councillor Fox were not returned. Councillor Fox would be one of the few 'safe seats' in the constituency, so news of his rumoured retirement has come as a huge surprise.

Fine Gael organisers in the Bray area told *Wicklow Times* that Aoife Flynn, who works at Sunbeam Services would be putting herself forward for selection as a candidate for the west ward. The Fine Gael Bray selection convention will take place on February 17th. As of the time of going to press there was no Fine Gael candidate announced for the East Ward.

Fianna Fail already announced Chirs Walsh as their Bray East candidate but have not as yet given any indication as to who they will run in the west.

Sinn Féin has already declared their two candidates, co-opted Councillor

Dermot O'Brien in the West and new candidate Grace McManus in the East.

The Green Party will announce their candidates this week, it is expected that sitting Councillor Steven Matthews will contest in the East ward.

The Labour Party is running former Councillor and TD Anne Ferris in the east and Ian McGahon in the West.

Peadar Toibin's new party Aontu will run two candidates, former Sinn Féin Councillor Oliver O'Brien and former Independent Councillor Brendan Thornhill.

Sitting Councillor and former TD, Independent Joe Behan will contest the election in the West ward.

It is expected that a number of new independents will also throw their hats in the ring in the coming weeks.

## Dalton selected by Sinn Féin to run in Wicklow East

**Sinn Féin's local area representative Muireann Dalton was formally selected to contest the upcoming local elections in the Wicklow East electoral area.**

Dalton has a history of community activism, trade unionism and political activism.

She said "I am delighted that the membership of Wicklow Sinn Féin have put their faith and trust in me to run for election and be the new voice of the people in Wicklow East. It's thrilling to be part of such a strong and supportive Sinn Féin team.

She went on to say "I have been a community activist for many years, having helped organise and manage a number of different groups. I have also been heavily involved in my Trade Union, MANDATE and was a shop steward and headed the decency for Dunnes workers campaign.

"I also played a leadership role in the Right2Water and Right2Change campaigns and this is what has encouraged me to step into politics. I have seen that progressive change is possible if we stand up together and demand it, and that's what Wicklow County Council needs at this time, fresh thinking and a progressive outlook on political policies for Wicklow."

Dalton concluded "I would like to thank all my family friends and supporters; I would also like to thank Deputy John Brady and the rest of the Wicklow Sinn Féin team for their ongoing support. If you would like to help with the campaign please contact me: 086075701 or muireanndalton72@gmail.com."



Muireann Dalton (holding the baby) celebrates being selected by Sinn Féin to run in Wicklow East

## Rathmichael Historical Society

**On Wednesday February 6th author and historian Fergus Mulligan will be the guest presenter for the February 8pm meeting of the Rathmichael Historical Society, the local history society for Shankill, Ballybrack, and the surrounding area.**

The meeting takes place in Rathmichael National School, Stonebridge Road at which he will speak about 'William Dargan - An Honourable Life' based on his biography of Dargan, the first to be published about this famous Irish railway engineer, developer and entrepreneur, who was responsible for the construction of the former Harcourt Street, Dublin-Bray line which formerly passed through Shankill. All welcome to attend - admission €4.



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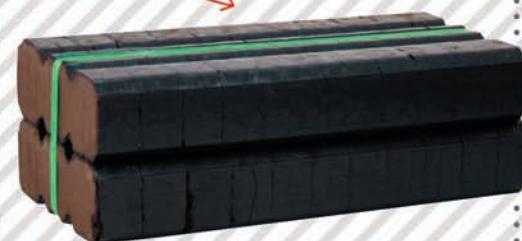
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*Pictured: Evan Kelly from Woodbrook College in Bray is pictured with RTE news anchor and presenter Sharon Ni Bheolain and Professor Darryl Jones, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Evan was a Merit Award winner in this year's Book of Kells Creative Competition run by Trinity College Dublin. Over 1,600 entries were submitted.*

## 'KING OF SPRING' HONoured IN WICKLOW TOWN

Wicklow Olympic athlete Peter O'Connor has been honoured in his home town with a plaque in his memory unveiled on Ashtown Lane.

Peter was an Olympic champion, a World Record holder and an Irish nationalist. His world long jump record of 24ft 9" achieved at the Royal Dublin Society's grounds in 1901 stood for 20 years while his Irish record of 24ft 113/4ins stood for 90 years.

He won a Gold Medal for the Hop Step and Jump competition in the Olympics of 1906 held in Athens and a Silver for the Long Jump.

The O'Connor family lived at the gate lodge off Ashtown Lane where Peter's father, Edward,

was caretaker of the newly completed reservoir.

Peter was an accomplished athlete and in 1906 took part in the Intercalated Games in Athens. Ireland did not have an Olympic Committee at the time and the Greeks ignored the Irishmen's independent entries and included them on the British team.

He was placed second in the long jump and the three Irishmen mounted an international protest when Peter scaled the 20ft pole and unfurled a large green flag. His fellow ath-

letes, Con Leahy and John Daly, stood guard at the base as the organisers had wanted a Union Jack to fly if any of the three won a medal.

Some days later, Peter took part in the Hop Step and Jump competition and came first, winning a Gold Medal.

Back in Ireland, Peter had a lengthy legal career in Waterford. He was a founder member of the Waterford Athletic Club and also Vice-President of the Incorporated Law Society of Ireland.

Speaking at the unveiling of the plaque, Mr

Frank Curran, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, said "This is a wonderful story of a man who was reared in Wicklow and who won two Olympic medals in the 1906 Intercalated Games in Athens and who not only held the Irish Long Jump record for 90 years but also held the world record for 20 years."

He said it was only right and fitting that we pay tribute to him in Wicklow, particularly as he perfected his hop, step and jump from the doorstep of his family home in Ashtown Lane and which may have been instrumental in his Gold Medal win in Athens in 1906.

The plaque was unveiled by Peter's great grandson, Mark King, who is author of the book, "The King of Spring". Mark himself is an International Chess Master and has represented Ireland at seven Chess Olympiads.

Cllr Daire Nolan, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow Municipal District, described Peter O'Connor as "one of Ireland's greatest athletes of the early 20th century" and gave a special welcome to members of the O'Connor family.

Wicklow Municipal District, he said, was happy to honour and highlight the achievements of Peter who had spent a large portion of his life growing up in Wicklow.



*Cllr John Snell pictured with Rosemary Quinn (Grandchild) and Mark Quinn (Great Grandchild and author of "The King of Spring")*

## Wicklow Municipal District Meeting Report

by Cathy Lee

### Wicklow prepares for St Patrick's Day

**A sum of €1,500 is to be given towards those volunteering to organise the Wicklow St Patrick's Day parade, councillors decided at last week's Municipal District meeting.**

Councillors also suggested that if there was any surplus available closer to the time, that this be given over as well. Cllr Mary Kavanagh said that the parade always "benefits the whole town".

The Twinning Committee has requested funding in the lead up to the hosting of international visitors for the St Patrick's Day Parade. Last year the committee received €4,200 from Wicklow Municipal District and it has requested the same again.

Councillors have decided to hold further talks with in the next week regarding this allocation of funding.

Councillors heard that

45 members of a German Brass Band, hailing from the area of Eichenzell-Fulda, will be coming to Wicklow Town for five days along with fellow travellers. The band are looking to take part in both the Wicklow Town and Greystones parades. The funding will be used to pay for busses to and from the airport as well as local hospitality, not including accommodation.

Cllr Irene Winters has been involved in hosting such visitors since before she was a councillor, and said "When people from Ireland go over there, they are hosted and they are really well looked after. Some of the people in the town that are

involved are really closely bonded and the people really do see us as family, they have a much more personal view of it than we have here. They see us as their friends, their European cousins".

Cllr John Snell and Cllr Kavanagh raised concerns about costs associated with the hosting of people from the twinned towns. Cllr Snell said that the Wicklow Municipal District have "always been very supportive" but wondered what Greystones Municipal District contributed to the hosting, considering that the visitors would also take part in that parade.

Cllr Kavanagh said she was concerned about councillors lacking under-

standing as regards what the money would be used for and what itinerary the Twinning Committee might have for the visitors. Cllr Kavanagh added that she feels "We pay money for this but we're no wiser as to what's happening, we're not getting informed. It would be nice to just be kept in the loop".

Cllr Winters explained that the councils abroad have a different hosting set up, in that they can bring the visitors into their Town Hall and host them with a dining area. She added that in that way, "it doesn't cost them the same as how it costs us" and suggested that she talk to the Twinning Committee and about bringing down their costs so that the money goes further.

### Over €1m to be spent on Wicklow Municipal District roads this year

**An estimated €1,061,760 will be the total cost of road works in the Municipal district for the year ahead. The type of road works to be delivered by local authority engineers include overlays, surfacing and tarmacking as well as recycling of old roads.**

Overlay works are scheduled for the Sallygap area, the road from Ballinahinch to Newtown and the Main Streets of both Ashford and Roundwood. Although surface dressing is planned for the Dunbur to Kilpoole area in Wicklow Town, Cllr Gail Dunne pointed out that money had been allocated to fix the pedestrian crossing on Dunbur Road in last year's discretionary fund.

Expressing his concern he said "Nothing has been done. The road itself, the surfacing, it's falling apart up there and it's probably going to cause a traffic hazard". Cllr Kavanagh and Cllr Winters both agreed that they'd like to see the works done as soon as possible in the area. Also in Wicklow Town, Cllr Dunne highlighted that part of the footpath is missing going towards the schools at the top of Rocky Road.

"I'm telling you now, someone is going to get hurt and get hurt badly up there. I've had a number of people who have emailed me. Rome wasn't built in a day but this really should be priority," he said.

## Notices issued to landowners regarding hedge cutting

**As notices are currently being issued to landowners regarding the cutting back of hedges and ditches, Cllr Shay Cullen said there is a need to increase the efforts by the Local Authority this year.**

Cllr Cullen said that "Hedges, overgrown ditches and hanging trees particularly in the rural upland areas of the district, are certainly an issue". He went on to say that "We have some fantastic landowners who always cut their hedges and keep them in fantastic condition, but on the other side we have people who totally disregard both the letters that they receive from the local authority and what they're supposed to do.

"I'd ask the overseers of our district here to be very strong on indicating where the problems are." Highlighting his concerns regarding repeat offenders he said "I'd

like us to focus our efforts on getting as many letters out and trying to follow up with further letters". He added that "At the end of the day, we have to respect the people who are doing the job properly, as we want our district looking well for tourism, such as bus routes, particularly to Glendalough."

## Concern with lack of progress on projects

**Councillors raised concerns around the issues of public safety, particularly with the lack of progress and delays on certain projects following money having previously been allocated. An example of this was the lack of progression on traffic calming measures in Glenealy village.**

Cllr Gail Dunne said "We were looking to slow down the traffic from the King's Pub to the church there, to stop cars coming out from Belard Manor. That need is getting more serious. I'm told that there has been a few near misses there recently, and I can't understand what is holding things up".

Cllr Mary Kavanagh agreed that this being a safety issue gives it huge importance. Cllr John Snell said that "Unfortunately, we're losing the projects between the cracks here. We're deciding on projects, allocating for them and they're not getting done".

Cllr Shay Cullen added that "We don't seem to be making progress. We've told the public that these projects are being done, and it looks like we're not upholding our side of what we agreed. We need to get more finalised dates going forward, for the likes of the 2019 projects".

Councillors have arranged to sit down together in the coming days and finalise their proposals on projects for the coming year. Although there are still outstanding projects from previous years, those will be carried forward and treated separately to new projects suggested by councillors.



# AVONDALE HOUSE AND FOREST PARK REDEVELOPMENT GETS GO AHEAD

The significant investment plan for Avondale House and Forest Park has been given planning permission from Wicklow County Council and the re-development plan is now underway.

It is envisioned that this project, which is a collaboration between Coillte and Fáilte Ireland, will see Avondale become a major visitor destination and a key attraction on the Ireland's Ancient East trail.

A total of €8 million will be invested in the re-development entitled 'A Place for Visionaries' set to open in 2021. The detailed design stages will commence soon.

The development will include an enhanced visitor facilities, a subterranean orientation space; a walking trail comprising sunken pathways, tunnels and elevated timber lattice walkways through the tree canopy; a timber lattice constructed lookout over the Avonmore River valley, as well as Ground, first floor and mezzanine extensions to the existing venue facility and refurbishment, extension and change of use of the existing outbuildings to a new café.

Fergal Leamy, Chief Executive of Coillte, said: "We are excited to be embarking upon such an ambitious project that will place Avondale Forest Park as one of the country's leading visitor destinations. Creating a unique space to socialise, enjoy and learn. 'A Place for Visionaries' will showcase all that Irish forests have to offer, demonstrating some of the leading-edge science and technologies used in the forestry industry today."

Visitors will be able to

explore two main themes: 'At Home with the Parnell's' which will celebrate the life and times of Charles Stewart Parnell at Avondale House and 'The Evolution of Forestry' which will take a retrospective look through the history of the forest park from the 1700's to present day and beyond.

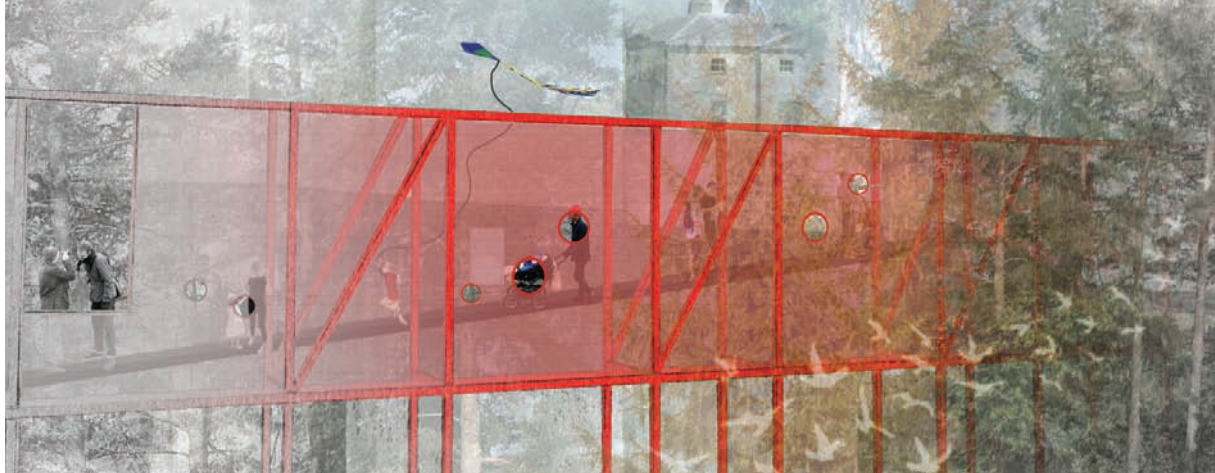
Paul Kelly, Chief Executive of Fáilte Ireland is confident this development will provide a major boost for the Irish tourism industry; "The re-development of Avondale House and Forest Park is hugely significant from a tourism and economic perspective for Ireland's Ancient East and for the country as a whole. Fáilte Ireland has provided more than 6.1 million towards this re-development project which builds on our continued investment across Ireland's Ancient East. We are confident that the re-developed Avondale House and Forest Park will attract a sizeable number of overseas visitors and domestic tourists ensuring Wicklow and the entire region benefits. The development of this new world class visitor experience also provides a major opportunity for tourism businesses across Wicklow to leverage the significant investment in the project."

Minister for Forestry Andrew Doyle TD welcomed the announcement, saying "This project will position Avondale as one of the top destinations in the

County. Avondale is often described as the cradle of modern democracy and the birthplace of Irish forestry and so it is very welcome to see Avondale gaining the recognition that it does truly deserve and fitting that this would happen as we are celebrating the centenary of the first Dail. I will be providing input to the detailed design stages when they commence. There is no national forestry library and there is an onus to preserve any information that may be in Avondale on the foundation of the forestry service.

"It is important to ensure that Avondale is open for Summer 2019 season and that proper facilities and information will be available to visitors during this time. It is important to recognise the work done so far by Coillte, Fáilte Ireland, local stakeholders and Wicklow Co. Council and all that has been achieved and I am looking forward to the next stage of this plan for Avondale."

Avondale was once the home of Charles Stewart Parnell, is now owned by Coillte and is considered the birthplace of Irish forestry. The 500-acre estate was originally built for Samuel Hayes in the 1700's who introduced exotic tree species into Ireland, right through to the state's acquisition of Avondale in 1904, ultimately leading to Coillte's formation in 1989.



A digital image of the new timber lattice walkway to be erected overlooking the forest canopy and Avonmore River valley

## Management company appeals to ABP over Ashford holiday village change of use

Ashford Owners Management Company Ltd are now appealing to An Bord Pleanála regarding their planning application for a 'change of use' which was rejected by Wicklow County Council.

Permission for 28 two-storey holiday homes at Belair Hotel in Ashford, Cronroe Demense, was previously granted in 1995 and 1998. The management company is now seeking a change of use to convert them into private family homes.

The Council refused permission in October of last year on the grounds that it would contravene the County Development Plan.

The Council also cited among its reasons the layout of the dwellings, poor quality of existing amenity space, and lack of adequate car parking,

The Council's decision stated that "the proposed change of use would materially contravene the settlement strategy of the County Development Plan 2016-2022, would be contrary to the overarching policy in respect to rural housing as set out in the National Planning Framework, would undermine the tourism objectives of the County Development Plan and would result in a sub-standard level of residential amenity for future permanent residential occupants of the dwellings.

"To permit this devel-

opment would set an undesirable precedent for similar sporadic development in the rural area and would undermine the core values of the County Development Plan 2016-2022. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and

sustainable development of the area."

The Development Plan states that "New housing shall be required to locate on suitable zoned or designated land in settlements, and will only be considered in the countryside when it is for the provision of a rural

dwelling to those with a housing, social or economic need to live in the open countryside."

Previous planning applications to change the use of two of the holiday homes to permanent family residences were also turned down by the Council in 2015.

A decision is due to be made by An Bord Pleanála by 20th May.

## Permission granted for Ashford Studios expansion

Permission for a €90 million extension for Ashford Studios has been granted by An Bord Pleanála.

Stephen Donnelly TD called it "a massive boost for the entire community".

The studio is to expand with four new film studios of 40,000 square foot each. The new buildings will also include TV studios, offices and support space.

Deputy Donnelly explained, "Ashford Studios has already proven to be a huge success for Wicklow. Thanks to blockbuster shows like 'Vikings' it's achieved worldwide fame and recorded more than 2 million Euro in annual profits according to its latest accounts.

"Huge praise is owed to studio boss Joe O'Connell and his daughter Shelley. They've been a pleasure to work with over the years and showed real determination when faced with development levies. Thankfully I was able to encourage Wicklow County Council to unanimously vote to exclude the studio from those levies and that foresight has seen the business flourish.

"We're told that the new extension has the potential to create an extra 1,500 film-related jobs. And there's huge potential for ancillary industries such as pre- and post-production and animation. Building this type of infrastructure will surely encourage more major productions to come here and that will have a superb knock-on effect on our tourism and hospitality industry. Simply put, this is fantastic news for County Wicklow", concluded Donnelly.

## Start-ups encouraged to apply for early-stage fund

Minister Humphreys and Enterprise Ireland last week announced the 2019 Competitive Start Fund (CSF) which is now open to all sectors.

The €750,000 fund will provide up to €50,000 in equity funding for up to 15 successful entrepreneurs and start-ups, and eligible start-ups from Wicklow are encouraged to apply. The fund closes to applications at 3pm on Tuesday, 12th February 2019. The Competitive Start Fund provides entrepreneurs and start-ups with the critical early-stage funding to test the market for their products and services and progress their business plans for the global marketplace. The fund is designed to enable those companies to progress key technical and commercial milestones. In addition to written online applications, companies will be asked to prepare an online video pitch. Full details on the All Sectors Competitive Start Fund, including the application form and eligibility criteria, can be accessed on the Enterprise Ireland website: [www.enterprise-ireland.com/CSFAllSectors](http://www.enterprise-ireland.com/CSFAllSectors).



**WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN

### Estate Development Funding Scheme 2019

Applications are invited from Residents Associations of Wicklow County Council Social Housing Estates for funding in relation to the upkeep of green areas within their estates. Private Housing Estates in which there are a number of Local Authority properties may also apply.

Application forms can be requested from your relevant Municipal District as per details below:-

**Arklow Municipal District**, Castle Park, Arklow, Co. Wicklow Y14 FX63 - 0402 42700 [arklowmd@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:arklowmd@wicklowcoco.ie)

**Baltinglass Municipal District**, Civic Offices, Blessington Business Park, Blessington, Co. Wicklow W91 RTV0 - 045 891222 [baltinglassmd@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:baltinglassmd@wicklowcoco.ie)

**Greystones Municipal District**, Mill Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow 01-2876694 [greystonesmd@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:greystonesmd@wicklowcoco.ie)

**Wicklow Municipal District**, Town Hall, Market Square, Wicklow A67 Y018 0404 20173 [wicklowmd@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:wicklowmd@wicklowcoco.ie)

Full details of the funding scheme together with application forms can be obtained by contacting the relevant Municipal District or from the Councils website [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)

Closing date for receipt of applications forms is 4.00 pm on **Friday 22nd February 2019**





# KEEPING YOUR OPTIONS OPEN

Most would-be third level students will have completed their CAO forms last week, but have they chosen the right options? With the run up to the 'Mocks' and pressure of study, CAO forms are often hastily completed without giving proper regard to life ambitions.

But remember there is the availability of the 'Change of Mind' option on the CAO that can be used right up to June.

Selecting the best possible course for you is a key decision to make, and often a challenging one. The stress on Leaving Certificate students is compounded by intense pressure to choose the 'right' CAO course before they even step onto a university campus.

For a few lucky people, choosing a course is simple: they have always wanted to be a doctor, accountant, dentist or an engineer. Others tend to choose their third-level options on the basis of the number of points they expect to achieve in the Leaving Certificate, rather than on their particular aptitudes and interests. Others may select on the basis of peer pressure, going

where their friend will be or indeed for geographical reasons, - where is nearest.

Come September and October the result is that some students discover that they have started on courses that may be unsuitable to them.

So how should you go about choosing a course? The greater the overlap between an individual's interests, aptitudes and personal characteristics and those required by the area of study, the greater the degree of satisfaction when engaged in that area of study.

A lot of heartache can be avoided if you take the time to look at the college websites to find out not just which subjects you will be studying on your course but also to find out the content of the individual modules of each subject. In this way you will know exactly what

lies ahead of you. Discovering that you have made the wrong choice can be upsetting, and expensive. If you decide to change course and repeat 1st year in college you will pay the full cost for that repeat year - a total of approximately 8,000 euros.

Most importantly consider options outside the CAO, such as the further education sector. Many students who do not secure the points they want for a course through the CAO, do very well in a Post-Leaving Certificate course in the discipline they want to study and then go on to secure a place in their preferred CAO course the following year.

If you are thinking of going to a PLC college, you must apply directly to the college as soon as possible as some courses are very popular. Places are offered on a first-come first-served

basis in most cases.

Choosing the right course is a big decision and it is important to get it right as it can impact your future success. If you can manage to get it right it will help you to take the next step in your career journey into the right postgraduate course in a few years.

How do I know if a further education course is the right choice for me?

First up, look at the post-Leaving Certificate courses on offer in your local college of further education - you'll find a full list at ETBI.ie. These are usually full-time courses, one year long and leading to a QQI level 5 certificate, or a second year leading to a QQI level 6 award. They include as diverse a range of options as you'd find in higher education, including animal care, arts and humanities, business, computers, construction, crafts and trades, healthcare, culinary arts and more.

Many students will go on to employment, not further study. Further education courses provide useful qualifications in their own right by equipping graduates with the workplace skills they need and many offer workplace experience. Students leave with skills which make them more employable than someone with just a Leaving Cert.

It's worth adding that students who move straight from a further education course to the workplace don't have the college door closed to them: after a few years in the workplace, they may decide to return to further education, start a third-level course (perhaps as a mature student) or do a goal-oriented training course. And the fees, usually below €500, are significantly less than the €3,000 you'll pay at third-level.



Students Alexis Fitzgerald and Glen Abbey O'Reilly at the recent Open Day at BIFE



Jolina Madriaga, Neana De Luna, and Fiona Mulvey at the recent Open Day at BIFE

## Wicklow Montessori Primary School are LEGO League Champions

Robots designed and built by school students using LEGO were in action at Dublin City University at the Learnit & DCU FIRST LEGO League Leinster finals on Saturday January 26th with Wicklow Montessori Primary School crowned as the overall champions.

Twenty-two teams from Leinster schools, including Gaelcholáiste na Mara and Kilcoole Primary School, competed in the event following four months of preparation including designing, building and programming their own automated robot, using LEGO Mindstorms. Teams also developed a research project based on identifying a human physical or social problem faced during long-duration space exploration within the Sun's solar system and devised solutions to combat this.

Wicklow Montessori Primary School who were crowned the 2019 Learnit & DCU FIRST LEGO League Champions will now go forward to represent Ireland in the UK Finals in the University of the West of England, Bristol on Saturday 16th February.

It is not the first time Wicklow Montessori pupils have had success with lego; last year they were the winners at the Irish finals of the First Lego League robotics championships in Galway.

FIRST is an acronym for 'For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology', and the FIRST LEGO League encourages children to think like scientists and engineers, developing practical solutions to real-world issues.

The FIRST LEGO League (FLL) is an international competition involving students age 11 to 16 from 80 countries. Teams of up to ten students, aged from 11 to 16 years with at least two adult coaches, can participate in the FIRST LEGO Leagues.

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# EDUCATION

## Keep your Options Open - A Different Pathway with BIFE

While in many cases students, schools and parents see the CAO as the 'be all and end all' for those seeking third level education, nothing could be further from the truth according to Gabriel Allen, deputy principal at Bray Institute of Further Education (BIFE). "Over recent years many new avenues have opened up to students to enable them pursue their dream career via a different route."

He added, "Further Education offers a learner, who may not have achieved the required CAO points, the opportunity to gain advanced entry onto honours degree programmes, both in Ireland and abroad."

The huge range of courses available at BIFE offers learners fabulous opportunities, not only for those looking for additional skills or hoping to go directly into employment, but also as an alternative route on to a college course in a university or institute of technology in Ireland or abroad.

"Many of our students" he said "who complete a one-year level 6 programme have been successful in gaining advanced entry to year 2 of a relevant degree programme in The Institutes of Technology. For example, if a student wanted to study Business Management in DIT (DT324) but did not get enough points in the Leaving Certificate (330 in 2018), they could do a one-year post-Leaving Cert (PLC) level 6 course in Management (6M4587) in Bray Institute of Further Education and gain direct entry into the second year of that same degree in DIT."

Over the past few years, graduates of BIFE have achieved honours degrees across a wide range of programmes, opening up a myriad of career opportunities from graphic design to performing arts to psychology.

This year BIFE will offer Higher National Diplomas in the following:

- Fine Art - Art Practice
- Acting
- Dance
- TV & Film (Moving Image)
- Music Production
- Music Performance
- Applied Social Studies
- Graphic Design
- Fashion Design

As Gabriel Allen explained, "These nine courses will allow graduating students to proceed to the final year of an honours Degree Programme in Ireland or Britain if that is their ultimate ambition."

Bray Institute will offer a number of new courses in September '19:

- Architectural Technology HND Level 6
- Restaurant & Bar Operations Level 5
- Occupational Therapy Assistant Level 5
- Dietetics, Nutrition & Food Science Level 5
- Animation & Motion Graphics Level 5
- Construction Technology with Sustainable Energy Level 5
- Mobile Technologies & App Design Level 5
- Entrepreneurship & Digital Marketing Level 5
- Pharmacy Technician Level 6
- Estate Agency Practice & Auctioneering Level 5
- Smart Building Technologies Level 6
- Beauty Sales Consultant Level 5

All of the above courses will offer progression routes to higher education.

Allen assured that there are many opportunities for mature students to study and progress at BIFE. "All courses have valuable certification and offer progression routes to Higher Education, yet you don't need CAO points to study at Bray Institute."

Bray Institute will be holding an **Open Afternoon on Wednesday 6th January from 4pm to 6pm**. Potential students, parents, and career guidance teachers will have the opportunity to speak to the staff who, with their educational knowledge and specialist industry experience, can guide you in the right direction.

Allen advises "Keep your option open. When you receive your Leaving Certificate results in August make sure that you have choices. Do I pick the CAO course that I was offered, or the PLC course or the apprenticeship course? Give yourself options. Don't wait until August to apply for that PLC course because there is a good chance that they will be full."

Applications for September 2019 Courses are now open. Apply on-line at [www.bife.ie](http://www.bife.ie) or call the Institute any day during office hours on 01-2829668 for further information.



Pictured L/r Bife students William Molloy, Ryan Cromwell, Anthony Duffy, Benny (Bethany) Deans, William Hanrahan, Kian Wallace, 400 metres below ground in the Tytyri Mine, Finland, one of the deepest limestone mines in Europe. The BIFE tourism students were in Finland on a work placement for 2 weeks, funded by the "Erasmus +" programme as part of their tourism studies.

You've filled out your CAO application but...

# Have you considered ALL your options?

**BIFE is the Southeast's largest college of Higher & Further Education with a range of Higher Diploma, Diploma & Certificate courses to suit YOU.**

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- Animation and Motion Graphics
- Architectural Design & Technology
- Architectural Technology HNC Level 6
- Construction Technology with Sustainable Energy
- Graphic Design - HND
- Fashion Design
- Fashion Textiles Advanced - HND
- Furniture Design & Cabinet Making
- Furniture Making and Restoration
- Horticulture - Level 5

### MEDIA & PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

- TV & Film Production
- TV & Film Production - Advanced - HND
- Film FX: Special Effects in Film
- 3D Game Design
- Games Development - Advanced Cert
- Sound Engineering
- Music Production - HND
- Music Performance - HND
- DJ Techniques
- Acting for Film, TV and Theatre
- Acting Advanced for Film, TV and Theatre - HND
- Dance Technique, Performance & Choreography
- Dance Technique, Performance & Choreography - HND
- Mobile Technology and App Design

### SOCIAL COMMUNITY & HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- Beauty & Body Therapy Diploma
- Beauty Sales Consultant
- Fashion, Theatre & Media Make-Up - Diploma
- Nail Technician
- Holistic & Wellbeing Studies (mornings only)
- Hairdressing - Junior Stylist
- Hairdressing - Senior Stylist
- Barbering
- Nursing / Midwifery Studies
- Early Childhood Care & Education - Level
- Social Studies & Community Care
- Supervision in Early Childhood Care - Level 6
- Health Care Assistant
- Applied Psychology
- Applied Health & Social Care - HND

### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

- Animal Care
- Animal Care & Management
- Animal Science Industry - Level 6
- Science - Pre University
- Forensics Applied Science
- Dietetics, Nutrition and Food Science
- Engineering Pre University
- Professional Cookery - Level 5
- Professional Cookery - Advanced - Level 6
- Computer Science - Level 5
- Computer Software Development
- Computer Networks & Cyber Security - Level 6
- Return to Work & IT Skills
- Smart Building Technologies

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**01 2829668**  
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# WOMEN'S MINI MARATHON 2019

If you are looking for some motivation to get fit and active while raising much needed funds for Irish charities, then sign up for this year's Women's Mini Marathon which takes place on Bank Holiday Sunday, 2nd June! The online entry system for the world's biggest all-female event, officially opens on 28th February.

With four months to go to the Women's Mini Marathon, now is the time to set your goals and prepare to bring your health and fitness on to another level.

Select your charity: The Women's Mini Marathon is the biggest one day charity event in Ireland. Select a charity to fundraise for and join 40,000 other women in raising money while having fun and getting fit!

Pair up: Do you have a friend who has the same goal, similar fitness level and schedule? Team up and train together and keep each other accountable. This way you can keep it fresh and fun and keep each other motivated.

Prepare to commit: Motivation is key to get you going, but discipline and commitment are what will see you through the training and help you achieve your goal. Prepare for the fact that some days you just won't want to train but make a commitment to yourself to do it anyway. It will be worth it when you cross the finish line.



## Roundwood Cancer Support

Roundwood Cancer Support is a new community volunteer-run organisation established in December of last year, dedicated to providing confidential, practical and emotional support to those affected by cancer and their loved ones.

Operating out of the Parish Centre, they are a vital service for the people of Roundwood, Moneystown, Laragh/Glendalough and Newtownmountkennedy. Receiving no Government funding, they rely solely on fundraising to provide their numerous services free of charge which include transport to St. Vincent's, St. Luke's, St. James's, Beaumont and the Mater hospital, massage therapy, counselling provided by an accredited counsellor, a complimentary library, and a cancer advocacy service providing important advice and practical information. Roundwood Cancer Support's opening hours are Monday (10am-1pm), Wednesday (10am-1pm) and Friday (10am-1pm). Call into them or call them on 087 6062072 or email roundwoodes@gmail.com.

## RUN BABY RUN!

VHI WOMEN'S MINI MARATHON  
SUNDAY 2 JUNE 2019

To join Team Holles Street for the VHI Women's Mini Marathon, sign up online at [www.nmhfoundation.ie](http://www.nmhfoundation.ie) or email us at [foundation@nmh.ie](mailto:foundation@nmh.ie)

## Carlow and South Leinster Rape Crisis Centre

The Carlow and South Leinster Rape Crisis Centre is appealing for support at this year's Women's Mini-Marathon, and is asking women to consider choosing it as their charity of choice to help raise much needed funds.

The centre was officially founded in 1997 and is a member of the Rape Crisis Network of Ireland (RCNI). The Centre is also involved in local groups including Local Area Network, Carlow Women's Network, Domestic Violence Intervention Programme and Women's Aid. The Carlow and South Leinster Rape Crisis Centre provides a safe environment for survivors of sexual abuse. All staff and volunteers deeply understand both the realities of sexual violence and the impact of all forms of sexual violence. All staff and volunteers are trained in the reality and extent of sexual violence. In supporting survivors through helplines, advocacy, counselling, medical or legal processes, the Centre understands the need to maintain confidentiality. All of the services at the Centre are provided free of charge which means fundraising efforts are vital and hugely appreciated.

## Barnardos

Barnardos is Ireland's leading children's charity. They work with over 15,300 children and families every year in schools, homes and our 40 project centres across the country.

The families they work with often experience severe disadvantage. "At Barnardos, we know that childhood shapes who we become and so our focus in all our work is children's welfare: we improve children's learning and development and increase their emotional well-being and resilience. By taking part in the Women's Mini Marathon in aid of Barnardos, you will be making a tangible difference in a child's life, helping them reach their full potential and ensuring no child in Ireland gets left behind. To sign up to join the Barnardos Mini Marathon team, please contact Emma at [emma.brown@barnardos.ie](mailto:emma.brown@barnardos.ie) or call 01 708 0438. Thank you."

## Wicklow Hospice Foundation

2019 is the year the Wicklow Hospice is going to open its doors!! A wonderful testament to the people of Co Wicklow and beyond, this state of the art facility will provide palliative care with 15 in house beds and also 7 palliative care nurses attached.

"We will be under the umbrella of Harold's Cross. Between Harold's Cross, Blackrock Hospice and the Wicklow Hospice, palliative care will be provided to the whole Leinster region. With all this wonderful good news, we would love if you would consider choosing the Wicklow Hospice as your charity of choice for the Women's mini marathon and be part of this fantastic achievement. Fundraising will always be integral part of the care that will be provided by the Wicklow Hospice. Please contact Sinead on 0870951437 or [sinead@wicklowhospice.ie](mailto:sinead@wicklowhospice.ie) and I will help you with your fundraising. Kindest Regards, the Wicklow Hospice Team."



## The NMH Foundation

The NMH Foundation was established in 2012 with the mission of raising much needed funds for designated projects at the National Maternity Hospital.

"While raising money for a wide variety of projects within the NMH, special attention is given to our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. The NMH is a tertiary referral centre looking after mothers and babies from all over Ireland. Delivering over 9,000 babies per year it is one of the busiest maternity hospitals in Europe and cares for women with complex medical disorders in pregnancy and for babies born as early as 23 weeks gestation and weighing as little as 500 grams. Email: [foundation@nmh.ie](mailto:foundation@nmh.ie) to help Holles Street."

## Heart Children Ireland

Heart Children Ireland is a nationwide organisation offering support to parents and families of children born with Congenital Heart Defects (CHD).

CHD is the most common of all birth defects affecting one in every 100

children born.

"Heart Children Ireland offers support to parents, families, children, adolescents and adults. These are just some of our supports. Social events where parents can meet and talk, nationwide information days focusing on cardiac topics, free access to our

Family Psychology Support Service, and annual conference with keynote speakers from the world of congenital cardiology. Support to families on the transplant journey with their child. Heart Children Ireland receives no Government funding."

## ARKLOW CANCER SUPPORT

We provide a wide range of services including Volunteer to Drive, Counselling and specialist therapies. Contact us for additional information.

8 St. Mary's Road, Arklow, Co. Wicklow  
**Tel: 0402 23590 • Mobile: 085 1100066**

## Heart Children Ireland supporting parents and families, children, adolescents and adults with Congenital Heart Defects

Are you running the VHI Womens Mini Marathon?

Why not run for Heart Children Ireland. Sponsorship cards and t-shirts are available from the Heart Children Office.

Contact Margaret or Linda on lo Call 1850 217017 or email [heartchildren@eircom.net](mailto:heartchildren@eircom.net)

Heart children Ireland, supporting tiny hearts to little hearts, little hearts to big hearts.

## Wicklow Hospice Foundation

We would love if you would consider choosing the Wicklow Hospice as your charity of choice for the Women's Mini Marathon and be part of this fantastic achievement.

Fundraising will always be an integral part of the care that will be provided by the Wicklow Hospice.

**Please contact Sinead on 087 0951 437 or [sinead@wicklowhospice.ie](mailto:sinead@wicklowhospice.ie)**

and I will help you with your fundraising

## Roundwood Cancer Support

Please consider choosing Roundwood Cancer Support as your charity for the VHI Women's Mini Marathon

**Now Open in Roundwood Parish Centre**

**Contact 087 606 2072**  
**E: [roundwoodcs@gmail.com](mailto:roundwoodcs@gmail.com)**  
**or find us on Facebook**

## Carlow & South Leinster Rape Crisis Centre

Our vision is of operating as a service Centre of Excellence in a society intolerant of all forms of abuse and violence.

Outreach services now available in Kildare and Athy. Book appointment through Carlow centre.

Please consider running for us in the Women's Mini Marathon and help us raise much needed funds

Telephone: 059-91 33344  
E-mail: [info@carlowrapecrisis.ie](mailto:info@carlowrapecrisis.ie)  
Address: 72 Tullow Street, Carlow, Ireland



# WOMEN'S MINI MARATHON 2019

## Open Door Day Centre

This year Open Door is proud to celebrate 35 years of caring in the community and would like to thank all its supporters for helping to make a difference to members lives.

Open Door is a charitable trust founded in 1984 and while based in Bray the catchment area covers North Wicklow and South County Dublin. The Centre provides facilities and activities for people with varying disabilities as a result of stroke, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, motor neurone disease, spina bifida and road accidents amongst others. Activities include art, music, computers, physiotherapy, ceramics and woodwork. Open Door is a vital social outlet for its members and also provides much needed support for carers and their families.

Join Open Door in this year's Women's Mini Marathon and help raise much needed funds to allow Open Door continue to support adults with physical disabilities. Transport will be provided from Bray, to and from Dublin and you will finish off the day with a reception in the Centre with strawberries & cream and a glass of bubbly. Once you have registered with [www.vhiwomensminimarathon.ie](http://www.vhiwomensminimarathon.ie) please contact Suzanne Cox on 01 2867123 or email [opendoor@eircom.net](mailto:opendoor@eircom.net) to secure your Charity pack with sponsorship card and t-shirt.

## BUMBLEance

BUMBLEance are asking for women to 'BEE' on their team and run for them at this year's Women's Mini Marathon to help raise vital funds.

BUMBLEance is the world's first fully interactive Children's National Ambulance Service, specifically designed and tailored for children. BUMBLEance ensures the safe transportation of sick children between their home and paediatric hospitals, hospices, national treatment centres and respite centres nationwide. They also provide a unique and vital service through their Angel Trips, the final journey a child takes on earth before he or she grows their Angel Wings.

BUMBLEance are part of the Saoirse Foundation, a national children's charity established with the aim of "making positive life impacts for sick children". Join #TeamBUMBLEance at this year's Women's Mini Marathon to help them keep the wheels turning and ensure that all the King and Queen Bees make it safely and on time to where they need to 'BEE'. Deirdre Lennon Head of Fundraising & Engagement would love you to BUZZ them and BEE on their Team at the Women's Mini Marathon on June 2nd. See their ad on this page for details on how to sign up.

## Barretstown

Be part of the magic and join Team Barretstown and Orla Wallace who is leading the team for the 2nd time in memory of her son Ben in this year's Women's Mini Marathon.

Whether you walk, jog or run the 10k on Sunday, 2nd June, you'll be joining a group of likeminded women all challenging themselves with the same ultimate goal - to help bring the magic of Barretstown to more children affected by serious childhood illness. Barretstown offers free, specially designed camps and programmes for children and their families with a serious illness, supported behind the scenes by 24 hour on site medical and nursing care. Sign up today and they'll support you all the way with lots of advice and guidance from the Community Fundraising Team, a fundraising pack with a free, dri-fit Team Barretstown t-shirt and an invitation to join the event day get together! "Contact us on (045) 864 115 or [fundraising@barretstown.org](mailto:fundraising@barretstown.org) and for more details [barretstown.org/events/vhi-womens-mini-marathon](http://barretstown.org/events/vhi-womens-mini-marathon)."



## Arklow Cancer Support

Arklow Cancer Support provides a safe place for a person diagnosed with Cancer and their families, providing important information and new coping skills in a non-judgemental and caring environment.

"We do it through our: Volunteer to drive programme, One to One counselling service, Specialised Therapies, Complementary therapies, telephone support services Information and Courier. For more information please contact us At 8 St Mary's Road or telephone 0402-23590."

**WICKLOW CANCER SUPPORT**

**ARE LOOKING FOR WALKERS, JOGGERS AND RUNNERS FOR THIS YEAR'S MINI MARATHON**

Sponsorship cards and t-shirts available from the centre. Also available at East Coast Coffee Morning to be held in De La Salle Pastoral Centre, Wicklow Town on Fri 12th Apr. Register Online from 28th February or via The Herald Entry form which will be in The Herald from early March.

Wicklow Cancer Support, Unit 2 First Floor  
Rear of Butlers Medical Hall Pharmacy  
Abbey Street, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow  
0404-32696 e-mail [wicklowcancersupport@gmail.com](mailto:wicklowcancersupport@gmail.com)



## Wicklow Cancer Support

Wicklow Cancer Support would like to thank all those wonderful ladies who - over the past many number of years - took part in the annual Women's Mini Marathon and raised funds for their centre in Wicklow Town.

"It is a great fun day and has been enjoyed by so many so we hope this year more energetic ladies will sign up and have a good day out with friends and family. Sponsorship Cards & T-shirts will be available at our Centre. Our Centre is powered by tireless volunteers who happily offer their time to make life easier for those affected by cancer. The many hours they have put into driving, listening, chatting, fundraising or offering any support they can, is evidence that extraordinary things happen when people join together."

## Meningitis Research Foundation

This year more than ever Meningitis Research Foundation needs your help to continue their vital work raising awareness of the signs and symptoms of this awful disease.

"You can help us with this by joining #TeamMRF and signing up for the 2019 Women's Mini Marathon. Whether you are a walking Novice or a seasoned runner, this iconic event offers a fantastic and fun experience for you as well as an opportunity to raise money for our work. We are here to support you all the way on your training and fundraising journey so just get in touch with us here in the office 01 8196931 or by email [Dublin@meningitis.org](mailto:Dublin@meningitis.org) to get your fundraising pack."

Join #TeamMRF and raise vital funds to help save lives.

Meningitis Research Foundation

Call: 01 819 6931  
Email: [dublin@meningitis.org](mailto:dublin@meningitis.org)

## Purple House Cancer Support

Purple House Cancer Support is seeking women to join their 2019 Mini Marathon Team.

Purple House provided a range of Cancer Support services to over 1,300 families throughout Wicklow & the wider Leinster areas last year. The Women's Mini Marathon is a vital fundraising event for them and one of their biggest fundraisers.

"Over the past 29 years, we have had women taking part in the mini marathon every year for us, it is a real feel-good event and a great chance for people to meet new friends. Purple House Cancer Support Centre, based on Parnell Road in Bray, would not be able to provide the level of services to people affected by Cancer without the goodwill of people taking part in great events like the Women's Mini Marathon.

"For so many people to make the effort to run, jog or walk the 10km, it means so much to us and our clients and we are very grateful to everyone who supports Purple House. Over 1,300 people visited Purple House in 2018 for Counselling, support, information, classes and advice. We cannot provide these vital services without fundraising events like the VHI Women's Mini Marathon.

"If anyone wants to sign up for the Purple House Cancer Support 2018 Mini Marathon team, they can do so by contacting us by email [info@purplehouse.ie](mailto:info@purplehouse.ie) or phone 01-2866966."

Each participant will receive: Sponsorship Pack; Free Purple House Technical Tee-shirt & bandana; Transport to and from the event. There will be a Post race BBQ & celebration event at the Martello Hotel on the seafront in Bray.

**LADIES, You CAN Do It!**

**VHI Women's Mini Marathon**  
Sunday 2nd June 2019

**DO IT FOR PURPLE HOUSE CANCER SUPPORT**  
**DO IT FOR YOU! JUST DO IT!**

PLUS Free 6 week training, race day transport and a post race party in The Martello.

Register NOW [info@purplehouse.ie](mailto:info@purplehouse.ie) or CALL 01-28 66 966  
PURPLE HOUSE, formerly Bray Cancer Support Centre.  
[www.purplehouse.ie](http://www.purplehouse.ie)

Cancer Support Centre - Counselling - Support - Advice - Information

Open Door caters for adults with physical disabilities on a daily basis. Our modern, purpose built Activity Centre is situated on the Vevay Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

**Ph: 01 286 7123**  
**E: [opendoor@eircom.net](mailto:opendoor@eircom.net)**  
**[www.opendoor.ie](http://www.opendoor.ie)**

Join Barretstown Mum Orla Wallace in the **Vhi Women's Mini Marathon** on June 2nd to celebrate the life of her son Ben and help raise funds for children with serious illness

**Team BARRETSTOWN**

Call us today on (045) 864 115 or email: [fundraising@barretstown.org](mailto:fundraising@barretstown.org)

**BE BRAVE**  
» DUBLIN MINI MARATHON

Be Brave for Barnardos at the **VHI Women's Mini Marathon!** Join team Barnardos and help change the lives of vulnerable children in Ireland.

Contact us today on **1850 222 300**  
[www.barnardos.ie/minimarathon](http://www.barnardos.ie/minimarathon)

the children's national Ambulance Service

**BEE on #Team BUMBLEance and run for us in this year's VHI Women's Mini Marathon June 2nd 2019**

Alex Hatton with mom Charlotte

Help us keep the wheels turning to ensure we get our King & Queen Bee's to where they need to BEE on time all the time!

Email [Info@bumbleance.com](mailto:Info@bumbleance.com) or call office on 083 00 44 444 and we will arrange to send everything to you





Pictured: Eimear O'Riordan from Mel Ryan School (centre) won the Best Director Award at this year's Bray One Act Drama Festival. The 42nd Bray One Act Drama festival, brought a welcome escape from the long cold January nights, with a week of laughs, drama and wonderful acting. Every year the festival supports local charities and this year the Bray Women's Refuge and Lakers will benefit from the success of the week.

## Greystones councillors hold 'positive' meeting with NTA

Greystones councillors met last Monday with the National Transport Authority (NTA) to discuss issues regarding bus and train services in the Greystones Municipal District.

Cllr Derek Mitchell said "I was pleased with a very good and open discussion about the problems of Greystones and Kilcoole District. I now feel they are taking our problems seriously. We went through a detailed list of rail and bus improvements which we requested.

"The Interim result of a study of providing more DARTs, every 20 instead of 30 minutes, to Greystones shows it is likely to be feasible. As yet this is uncoded and the final report is not out. This is based on the partial double tracking idea in my 2018 paper on the DART. This will take years to implement but shows a serious approach by the NTA.

"More DART and diesel cars are being ordered though these will take some years to arrive. I asked that they work out how to provide longer trains to Kilcoole and Wicklow in advance of carriages arriving. More frequent weekend DARTs are hoped for at the end of 2019 when more drivers have been recruited and trained.

"The NTA also agreed to our request to liaise with the N11 redesign team to include bus priority measures. The NTA are keen to have express buses and

Park n' Ride on the N11 provided they can get adequate priority.

"The NTA was keen to receive e-mails of problems with buses going to schools. We asked about providing extra 84xs, 84s at peak times, making the 133 reliable and other improvements. Their priority is to introduce the Bus Connects project following a revised draft coming out this Summer and they will consider changes in that context. They are keen to improve the Templecarrick School bus stop, the exit from Greystones station and a shelter at Kilcoole." Speaking after the meeting, Social Democrats councillor Jennifer Whitmore said "As a Greystones District Cllr I am acutely aware of the multitude of transport problems that face both residents and commuters. As our population grows, and our commuting levels increase, these issues are becoming more and more pressing. The District Cllrs have all worked together to ensure that those in decision making roles understand the difficulties faced by our constituents. This has included meetings with Irish Rail and Dublin Bus, and yesterday, we met with the National Transport Authority, which

is the overarching body that deals with transport strategy and funding.

"The meeting was a relatively positive one, and they reviewed all the issues that we raised with them. Ultimately, many of the issues faced will require significant investment, such as doubling the train track in part between Greystones and Bray to enable a 20 min Dart service, but they were open to reviewing this. They also have ordered new and refurbished carriages for the train but unfortunately there will be a time lag before that will happen. In relation to the buses, the NTA are publishing an updated BusConnects proposal in early summer, and this will be the driver for bus improvements. I was, however, happy to hear that they are supportive of my suggestion of Park n Rides on the N11, done in conjunction with the prioritisation of bus use on a new third lane on N11. So whilst there will be no immediate improvements, it does look like they are moving in the right direction. I will continue to keep in contact with the NTA, Irish Rail, Dublin Bus and Bus Eireann to try to push for these improvements as quickly as possible."

## 'Autism: Puberty and Sexuality'

AsIAM, Ireland's national autism advocacy charity has announced its second 2019 Community Support Talk in County Wicklow.

The event will be held in the Whale Theatre, Greystones, 7th February (19:00-21:00). These community support events are delivered by experts in the field of autism with each event focusing on a different topic. Each event is free to attend,

those interested in attending are asked to register for free tickets at [www.eventbrite.ie](http://www.eventbrite.ie).

February's talk will specifically focus on the theme of "Autism: Puberty and Sexuality" and will be given by guest speaker on the night Davida Hartman, Senior Educational and Child Psychologist, co-founder of The Children's Clinic. Davida is also author of a number of books which aim to support children and teenagers on the autism spectrum to reach their potential and live happy and fulfilled lives.

Commenting on this Adam Harris, CEO of AsIAM said. "We are delighted to be bringing a programme of community support events around Ireland. Our 24 community support events will provide much needed information and guidance to autistic people and families on issues as diverse as employment, sensory processing and making friends

He added "Often our community can feel isolated and under-supported - these events will bring people together to share experiences, identify possible local supports and listen to subject matter experts".

## St. Patrick's Day 2019 in Greystones

Plans are now underway to make this year's parade even bigger and better than ever.

Application forms and details have been sent to local groups and organisations. If your group did not receive one, please contact 2876694 or [GreystonesMD@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:GreystonesMD@wicklowcoco.ie). A wide range of awards will be made in various categories. The usual Best Window Display award will also be made. All shops and commercial enterprises are encouraged to make Greystones "en fete". Please return parade applications to GMD by 22nd February. Cost is Clubs/Organisations, €20; Commercial, €40.

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National Hyperbaric Centre, 53-54 Great Strand Street, D1. P: (01) 873 3044, Fax: (01) 873 3969  
Emergency: 087 972 9366 Email: [hyperinfo@eircom.net](mailto:hyperinfo@eircom.net) [www.hyperbaricireland.com](http://www.hyperbaricireland.com)





# VALENTINE'S DAY

**L**oved-up couples across Co. Wicklow are gearing up to celebrate their affections for each other on Valentine's Day this February 14th. This day, full of red envelopes, bouquets of flowers, chocolates and candle-lit meals has been around for centuries.



There are different opinions as to who was the original Valentine was, but the most popular theory dates back to the time of the Roman Empire and the reign of Claudius II, 270 AD. Claudius believed that single men made better soldiers and

did not want his men to marry during wartime. Bishop Valentine went against his wishes and performed secret wedding ceremonies. Valentine was jailed and then executed by order of the Emperor on February 14th. While in jail, he wrote a love note to the jailor's daughter signing it, "From your Valentine." In any event, in 496 A.D., Pope Gelasius set aside February 14 to honor St. Valentine. Through the centuries, the Christian holiday became a time to exchange love messages and St. Valentine became a patron saint of lovers. In the 1840s, Esther Howland, a native of Massachusetts, is given credit for sending the first Valentine cards. The spirit of love continues as valentines are sent with sentimental verses and children exchange valentine cards at school.



## Valentines Facts

- Every year around 1 billion Valentine cards are sent around the world. After Christmas it's a single largest seasonal card-sending occasion.
- Amongst the earliest Valentine's Day gifts were candies. The most common were chocolates in heart shaped boxes.
- Richard Cadbury produced the first box of chocolates for Valentine's Day in the late 1800's.
- In the middle Ages, people believed that the first unmarried person of the opposite sex you met on the morning of St. Valentine's Day would become your spouse.
- The most fantastic gift of love is the Taj Mahal in India. It was built by Mughal Emperor Shahjahan as a memorial to his wife.
- Cupid is a symbol of Valentine's Day. Cupid was associated with Valentine's Day because he was the son of Venus, the Roman god of love and beauty.
- The Roman Lupercalia, a celebration of fertility began on February 14th. The date was later borrowed by the early Christians to celebrate a martyr by the name of Valentine.



**The Green Room**

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Ph: 01-201 9810**  
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Delivering across County Wicklow and Nationwide



**GLENVIEW HOTEL AND LEISURE CLUB**

## VALENTINES at the Glenview Hotel

Special 4 course Valentine's meal including a glass of bubbly and a rose with an overnight stay available on the 14th, 15th & 16th February from €190 per couple

**Contact (01) 274 0000**  
for more details or visit us online  
[www.glenviewhotel.com](http://www.glenviewhotel.com)





Pictured: athletes and coaches from Co. Wicklow, from left, Graham Hillick, Rukky Atiyota, Aisling Beacon, Pdraig Reilly and Paul Condren in attendance at the Special Olympics Ireland official launch Team Ireland for the 2019 World Summer Games

## Wicklow athletes gear up for Special Olympics World Games

This March, four Co. Wicklow athletes will travel to Abu Dhabi to compete in the 2019 Special Olympics World Summer Games. Part of a 91-strong Team Ireland squad, these athletes will represent their country at highest level of sporting competition for Special Olympics athletes.

Taking place between 14-21 March 2019, Abu Dhabi 2019 will be the largest sporting and humanitarian event in the world this year. Supported by a volunteer management team of 39, including Co. Wicklow football coach Graham Hillick from Bray, Team Ireland will join 7,000 Special Olympics athletes from 170 countries at the Games.

The Co. Wicklow athletes will represent Team Ireland in four sports.

World Games veteran, Aisling Beacom (38) from Wicklow Town, who has competed in several Special Olympics World Games, including Athens 2011, where she won a silver and bronze medal, is Abu Dhabi bound this March. The swimmer, who helped to set up the

Blue Dolphins Special Olympics Club in Wicklow Town, which she attends, will compete in the Open Water Swim for Team Ireland.

Rukky Atiyota (18) from Delgany, who is also a member of the Blue Dolphins Special Olympics Club, will compete in Basketball. Meanwhile, Paul Condren (30) from Bray will compete in Football and Pdraig Reilly (37) from Hollywood, Co. Wicklow will represent Team Ireland in Tenpin Bowling.

Emma McMenamin, Head of Delegation for Team Ireland said: "These athletes are extremely focused and determined and like any athlete facing into a major competition, they are putting 100% into their training. It was great to see how excited

the athletes are to be part of this huge event. To represent Team Ireland and compete on the World Stage in Abu Dhabi is a big honour and one these Special Olympics athletes are not taking lightly."

President Michael D. Higgins sent a message of support to Team Ireland athletes. He said: "Being chosen to represent your country on the international stage is a great honour indeed. It is a tribute, not only to your great talent as athletes, but also to your dedication, hard work and perseverance; qualities which make you inspirational role models and admirable ambassadors for Ireland."

"I thank you for your commitment to representing our country so proudly on the international stage and assure you that, as you travel to Abu

Dhabi, you bring with you the support and goodwill of all of the people of Ireland. May I wish each and every one of you every success and many precious moments of enjoyment and happiness at the 2019 Games. May I also commend those who have encouraged and assisted you on your journey to date including your coaches and family members."

As the countdown to the World Games gets under way, Special Olympics Ireland is calling on the business community and individuals to help them raise much-needed funds to send the athletes to Abu Dhabi. To cover the cost of sending Team Ireland to the Games, Special Olympics needs to raise a total of €455,000 (€5,000 per athlete).

# PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CENTRES MOVING FORWARD RAPIDLY

Health Minister and Local TD, Simon Harris has confirmed that all Primary Care Centres planned for Co Wicklow are progressing well.

Speaking following a briefing from the HSE, Minister Harris said: "I have continued to push the HSE to deliver these much needed Primary Care Centres and I am pleased to confirm that we have good progress on each at this stage."

"Anyone passing through Bray can see that the new Primary Care Centre opposite my constituency office is developing rapidly. Building works are continuing and we expect to have the new centre up and running, serving the community by the beginning of this year. The Bray Primary Care

Centre will be a hub for health care services in the Bray area.

"I was really delighted to receive confirmation of the grant of planning permission for the Arklow Primary Care Centre last week. The centre has been delayed due to the planning and design process but thankfully, it will now quickly move to construction."

"I am working to ensure progress on each of our primary care centres moves as quickly as possible. I will be visiting the site of the new Baltinglass Primary Care Centre in the coming

weeks as construction begins. This PCC will be a fantastic addition to Baltinglass and it will hopefully serve as a centre point for the community like the Blessington PCC has for Blessington."

"Building works are scheduled to begin on the Rathdrum Primary Care Centre this month (February) and a letter of intent has issued to the developer of the Greystones Primary Care centre. They are now in the process of purchasing the chosen site."

Minister Harris spoke about the importance of Primary Care Centres to the change in how we

deliver health care in Ireland: "I am absolutely determined to develop a proper network of Primary Care Centres as these are a key infrastructure component of moving healthcare from our acute hospitals, into our communities. People want to be able to access services like OT, Physio, Speech and Language Therapy, and others without having to travel to a hospital in Dublin. I am really delighted to see the impact of the Primary Care Centres we already have in place and I look forward to having a complete network operational."

## Progress made in securing sports campus

Wicklow County Council has signed a contract with a specialist sports consulting company for the proposed sports campus for North Wicklow.

Stephen Donnelly TD has welcomed the progress, saying "The firm W2 has been hired to help planners understand the sporting needs of the area. I have written to all the clubs and associations in North Wicklow encouraging them to have their say and will facilitate communication between the clubs and the consultants. This is an incredible opportunity to ensure that any new facility is purpose-built to the community's requirements and should not be missed."

"Councillor Pat Vance and I have been working hard on this issue for a long time. We have a once-in-a-lifetime chance now to have a sports campus that would rival any of those currently located in our major universities. It would be

located on a huge 55 acres of land at Old Fassaroe just off the N11. The County Council is clearly taking this idea seriously and is putting its money where its mouth is by hiring consultants."

"And this is not the only good news we've had. Progress has also been made on the overall development, with various concerns being addressed, including remediation of old landfill, public transport links, and required works on the N11. While the timing couldn't be better, right now a major fund for sports capital projects is seeking applications. The deadline for submissions is the end of April and I will be strongly supporting an application from Wicklow County Council for initial funding for the North Wicklow Sports Campus."

## Arklow Vikings Special Olympics Club will cease to function without new members

The Arklow Vikings Special Olympics Club needs to recruit new committee members and volunteers if it to continue functioning, the club has said.

An EGM will be held in Aras Lorcan in Arklow at 8pm on Wednesday, February 6th. It is open to anyone interested in the future of Arklow Vikings.

The club remains financially healthy, however all Arklow Vikings activity has been suspended since the start of the year. The club was not in a position to elect a new committee at the AGM in November and volunteer numbers are dropping.

Arklow Vikings Special Olympics Club has been a prominent presence in Arklow since its foundation in 2004. Attendees of the town's annual St. Patrick's Day parade will be familiar with the Viking ship float that the club enters in the parade every year, and traffic has been stopped on the Main Street more than once to allow athletes parade their hard-won medals.

The club caters for the sporting and social needs of adults and children with special needs from across Co. Wicklow. Every week, a small but dedicated team of coaches and volunteers provide training in basketball, football, swimming and bocce.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Vikings or how they can help are encouraged to contact the club secretary on 087 1266381, or to email arklowvikings@gmail.com. Whether for one hour a month or three nights a week, as a committee member, coach or volunteer, everyone is welcome at Arklow Vikings. Volunteers need have no previous experience - training is available and the club's current volunteers will be on hand to help out at all times.

A willingness to have fun with and encourage the club's athletes is all that's required.

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# Council hosts 2019 business breakfast briefing

Leading local and national business people were invited to join in the drive for further economic development and job creation in County Wicklow last Friday.

As part of its ongoing commitment to economic development, Wicklow County Council hosted the 2019 Breakfast Briefing attended by key County Wicklow business stakeholders.

The theme of this year's event - held in the Druids Glen Hotel & Golf Resort was: "Making Wicklow Great for Business."

Business stakeholders suggested ways how Wicklow County Council can, through collaboration and engagement with the business community and state agencies, drive economic activity in the County and increase job opportunities.

In a keynote address, Wicklow County Council Chief Executive, Mr Frank Curran, detailed the Economic Update and Future Strategic Plans of the Council. He also highlighted the major strategic infrastructure projects underway or planned by the Council for 2019, including: Upgrading of

the N11/M11; Arklow Sewerage Scheme; Bray Public Transport Bridge; Arklow Historic Quarter and Fitzwilliam Square; New public library in Wicklow town.

He also outlined the progress made on the issues raised at last year's event. In his address, Mr Frank Curran, said: "I believe that County Wicklow's strategic location, with easy access to Dublin Airport, Dublin, Wicklow and Rosslare Ports; its skilled workforce and transport links places the county in a strong position to attract industry and enterprise opportunities".

The Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Pat Vance stated: "We are delighted with the level of engagement today. It's all about building relationships and we can tap into huge potential by working together."

He said that it was clear from the morning's briefing that the business com-

munity is extremely interested in working with Wicklow County Council to enhance business opportunities. He was delighted with the turnout and expressed his appreciation to all stakeholders from the various sectors for contributing to the event.

The briefing also heard from Dr Barry McCleary, CEO, Megazyme, who described the company's development, its successes and challenges since relocating the business to the Southern Cross Business Park, Bray in 1996 from Sydney, Australia. He also talked about the range of products developed by Megazyme.

The Breakfast Briefing concluded with some final thoughts and commitments by the Wicklow County Council Chief Executive following a Question and Answer session and contributions submitted by participants. MC for the event was Mr John Ryan, CEO of Great Place to Work.



At the Wicklow County Council breakfast briefing in Druids Glen last Friday were Barry V. McCleary, CEO of Megazyme, Frank Curran, CEO of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Pat Vance, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr John Ryan, and Pat Casey TD.



At the Wicklow County Council breakfast briefing in Druids Glen last Friday were Conor Sweeney and Vibeke Delahunt.



At the Wicklow County Council breakfast briefing in Druids Glen last Friday were Lorraine Gallagher and Cllr Gail Dunne.

## A story of commitment and dedication

DermaGlo Skin & Laser Clinic celebrates 10 years of success in Bray

Since opening its doors in 2008, the husband and wife team have been bringing the most innovative aesthetics treatments and medical skin care to Wicklow and Dublin areas.

Nurse Julie Goldsmith and Dr David Hone hold a history of high professional achievements, including the right to be an Official Obagi Ambassador in Ireland and a Masters in Medical Aesthetics title, among many others.

DermaGlo is the first skin clinic in Ireland to provide Envy Facial: an advanced skin-resurfacing treatment which improves skin health and appearance. The clinic also specialises in anti-wrinkle injections, skin fillers, medical grade laser treatments, Profhilo skin remodelling and all non-surgical aesthetic solutions available on the

market.

DermaGlo offers luxurious treatment rooms, privacy and free parking,

in its new premises at Woodlands Office Park. See [www.dermaglo.ie](http://www.dermaglo.ie), call 01 276 8858.



Julie Goldsmith, founder of DermaGlo

### What's Happening...

#### Rathdrum Saint Patrick's Day Parade

A meeting to discuss the Rathdrum St. Patrick's Day Parade will take place in the RDA hall on the 4th February at 7.00pm. It's hoped that there will be a good turn out for this meeting. Last year the Rathdrum Parade was an outstanding success. Everyone is welcome to help out to make this year even better.

#### Safer Internet Day

Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) in partnership with Comhairle na nOg, Extern, ISPCC, Tusla, and Wicklow Child & Family Project is hosting an event to celebrate Safer Internet Day on 5th February, in the Parkview Hotel in Newtown from 9:30am to 1:30pm. The event is for parents and those working with families and/o young people. There will be workshops and a talk from Dr. Irene Connolly on cyberbullying. Register for the event on [eventbrite.ie](http://eventbrite.ie). Places are limited.

#### Wicklow bird race

The Annual Wicklow Bird Race will take place on Saturday 16th February. Meet at 7am in the car park at the south end of Bray promenade, for a 7.15am start. Race finishes at 6.45pm in the Beehive Inn (at Junction 18 on the M11). Cost is €5 per person with teams of 3/4 per car. See the Facebook event page for rules/guide and to indicate your interest in taking part or email [birdwatchwicklow@gmail.com](mailto:birdwatchwicklow@gmail.com).

#### Delgany Guild Irish Countrywomen's Association Meeting

This takes place on 11th February, St. Patrick's Parish Centre; 8:00 p.m.

Delgany Guild ICA meets every second Monday of the month. Lots of activities and ideas to keep you interested, a wide range of demonstrations and speakers are actively pursued, also various crafts, sport, drama and theatre outings as well as forging good friendships. Come along and see what is on offer. You will be most welcome.

#### Walking group in the Brockagh

On Monday mornings weekly at 10am join the Laragh walking group at the Brockagh Resource Centre for a walk around Glendalough area for approximately one hour.

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**WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**  
Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplandesign.com) Seeks planning permission for a rear single storey extension to dwelling and associated works at 9 Sea Road, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow for B. and C. Hunt. 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 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**  
Ballese Lower, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow. I, Emma Cullen intend to apply To Wicklow County Council For Planning Permission to:  
(A) Construction of a new four-bedroom dwelling.  
(B) Installation of a new treatment unit and percolation area.  
(C) New vehicle entrance onto public road (L1152).  
(D) All associated site works, all at above address.  
This 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, Co. Wicklow during its public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to this application may be made in writing to the Planning Authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20, within the period of five weeks, beginning on the date of receipt of the application by the Authority 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.

**WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**  
I Pat Cooke seek planning permission for a development that will consist of a slatted cattle farm shed with a total area of ca. 2120 square meters to include over ground rainwater storage tanks all together with associated site works at this site Titewer, Newtownmountkennedy, 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, Mr & Mrs H Cohen wish to apply for planning permission for the construction of a single storey extension of circa 13m<sup>2</sup> to the north elevation of No4 Cherry Drive, Delgany Wood, Co Wicklow. This 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, Co. Wicklow during its public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to this application may be made in writing to the Planning Authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20, within the period of five weeks, beginning on the date of receipt of the application by the Authority 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.

**WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**  
Significant Further Information: We, McAulay Rice Architects (0404 62178) hereby give notice of the submission of Significant Further Information to the Planning Application Ref No. 18/789 on behalf of Kate Dwane Snape for Full Planning Permission for a proposed new dwelling, new well, a proposed secondary treatment system with percolation area all to current EPA guidelines, garage and all associated site works at Ballinastoe, Roundwood, Co Wicklow. Significant Further Information/ Revised Site Plan/ has been furnished to the Planning Authority in respect of this proposed development and is/are available for inspection or purchase at the offices of the Planning Authority during its public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to the significant further information or revised drawings may be made in writing to the Planning Authority within 2 weeks of receipt by the Planning Authority of the newspaper and site notice. A submission or observation must be accompanied by the prescribed fee except in the case of a person or body who has already made a submission.

**WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**  
I John Cardiff intend to apply for permission for a 558.3sqm extension to existing agricultural shed to house cattle, slatted slurry storage tank and associate works at Cullentra, 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 Council Buildings, Wicklow Town, during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee within 5 weeks from submission of application to Planning Authority.

**WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**  
Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplandesign.com) Seeks planning permission for retention of a mobile home for a temporary time limit on site for a family member and associated works at 4 Thornhill Road, Fassaroe Glen, Bray, Co. Wicklow for B. Keogh. 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 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**  
I Noel Heatley seek planning permission for the construction of 74 No. dwellings units, to be accessed from an existing exit/entrance off the Hawkstown Road, Burkeen. The application consists of the following: 3 No. detached split-level 5-beds, 1 No. detached 4-bed, 12 No. semi-detached 4-beds, 8 No. semi-detached 3-beds, 12 No. end of terrace 3-beds, 18 No. mid-terrace 3-beds, 2 No. end of terrace 2-beds, 2 No. semi-detached 2-beds, 8 no mid-terrace 2-bed, 4 No. end of terrace 1-bed units (ground floor), 4 No. end of terrace 1-bed units (first floor), a realignment of previously approved (Reg Ref 17/1470) cycle & walkway route, together with required foul and surface water connections, attenuation tank and with all site works, at Hawkstown Road, Burkeen, Wicklow, 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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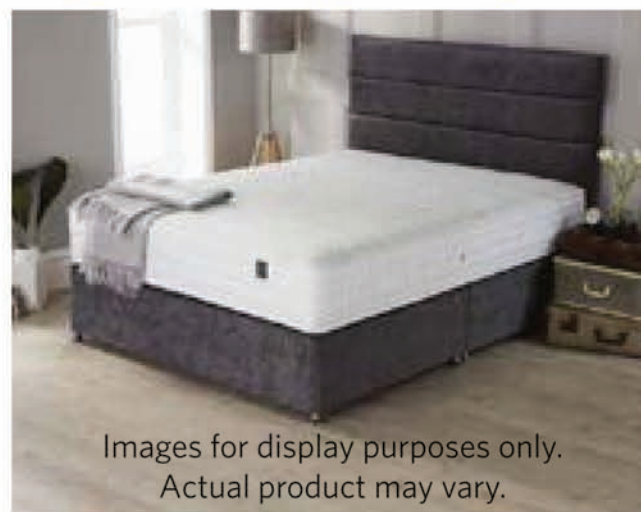
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