



LOCAL ENTERPRISE WEEK page 4



MARRAKESH page 8



ST. PATRICK'S DAY pages 10 & 11

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Tuesday 12th March 2019

5 Eglinton Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow

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# MORTGAGE FUNDS STILL AVAILABLE

Wicklow County Council confirmed to *Wicklow Times* that it has received clarification from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, that the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan scheme remains in full operation and it should continue to receive and process applications.

The Council said it has not stopped accepting applications and will continue to process and approve applications for the foreseeable future. The Council's budget under the scheme for 2018 was €10 million, and it has drawn down about €5m to date. The Council is currently working closely with applications that have been declined by other financial mortgage providers.

Since the Council began offering mortgages under the scheme in February last year, 188 applications have

been received and 78 of these were approved (a 41.5% success rate). Nationally, almost 600 people have bought their first home through the scheme.

There has been widespread concern following reports last week that the scheme had been put on hold as some local authorities had 'reached their limit' with regards to their allocated funding.

Speaking in the Dáil, Minister for Housing, Eoghan Murphy said that he is currently negotiating with the Department of Public

Expenditure and Reform with regards to continuing the scheme, as a second tranche of funding would be needed when the first one expires. He said however that only half of the first tranche of €200m has been drawn down so far.

It was reported that a briefing note from the Department of Housing released under Freedom of Information to the RTE Press Office stated that the Department had been advised that "no further approvals should issue for now" as demand had far exceeded expectations.



Majella Dillon, Ciara Murphy, and Linda Murphy at the Tinahely GAA dinner dance

A Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan is a Government-backed mortgage for first-time buyers available from the Council. First-time buyers can apply for a loan to purchase a new or second-hand property, or to build their own home. They can borrow up to 90% of the market value of the property. The maximum market value of the property that can be purchased or self-built in Co. Wicklow is €320,000.

Commenting last week Fianna Fail's Housing Spokesperson, Pat Casey TD said, "The Rebuilding Ireland Home loan scheme was sold as the key evidence of Fine Gael's commitment to improving home affordability in Wicklow. Just two weeks ago the Minister referred to the home loan

scheme when we raised concerns but failed to acknowledge any issues, despite now knowing that at least one Local Authority had flagged funding problems."

Deputy Casey said that the Government need to "take seriously" his Party's proposals to allow Credit Unions to provide loans to first-time buyers: "Credit Unions across the country are sitting on funds which they are getting absolutely no return for. Due to Central Bank rules, Credit Unions are only permitted to invest in the pillar banks, but the pillar banks are not giving them a return."

"If they were to engage in a housing scheme then any return they received would be far greater than the 0% they currently get," concluded Deputy Casey.

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Pictured: Ann Busher and Martina Kelly at the recent coffee morning in the Brockagh Centre, Laragh, in aid of the Irish Heart Foundation.

### What's Happening...

#### Paddy's Day singalong with The Navvies

Celebrate St Patrick's Day at the Whale Theatre in Greystones by listening to The Navvies celebrate the Irish working man's life and times, with ballads about loved ones back home, about the search for a better life, and about the country that they loved so well.

With Daniel, Paul, Barry and Patrick - aka The Navvies - recognising all the greats of Irish traditional music - from Brendan Behan to Ronnie Drew, from The Chieftains to The Pogues - there's no better way to wrap up your Paddy's Day than gathering around and singing along to the songs that roused a nation, again and again.

The show takes place on Sunday 17th March at 7pm with tickets costing €5.

#### Bray Cualann Historical Society

On Saturday March 16th Brian White, Chairman of the Bray Cualann Historical Society, will lead a 75-minute guided tour of the Church of the Most Holy Redeemer, Main Street, Bray, starting at 3pm. The tour will cover the history of the church since 1792, looking at the changes in the building, the priests who served in the Parish, the plaques, windows and other memorials in the church. Meet in the church. All welcome.

On Monday March 18th Brian White will lead a free guided walking tour of Bray's Main Street covering Shamrocks, Serpents and patroic persons who lived on the Main Street. Meet outside the Town Hall at the top of Main Street at 3pm. All are welcome to take part.

#### Scrap Metal Day in Laragh

Clean up your home or farmyard for free from the Mon 25th to Sunday 31st of March. Leave your metal scrap around the back of the Brockagh Centre near the bottle bank.

To view the kind of scrap acceptable, go to Brockagh Resource Centre Facebook page or [brockaghresourcecentre.ie/events-and-timetables/](http://brockaghresourcecentre.ie/events-and-timetables/). This is a fundraiser in aid of the Brockagh Resource Centre (0404 45600 or email [brockaghresourcecentre@gmail.com](mailto:brockaghresourcecentre@gmail.com)).

#### ICA Delgany Guild

The next meeting of the Irish Countrywomen's Association (ICA) Delgany Guild will take place on Monday 11th March at 8pm in St. Patrick's Worship & Reconciliation Centre, Church Road, Greystones.

## Porterhouse Group strikes gold with 'best gin in the world'

Dingle Original Gin, produced by the Bray-founded Porterhouse Group, scooped the top prize at the World Gin Awards in London earlier this month.

The gin was named 'Overall Best in the World' from more than 400 gins which underwent blind tasting by gin experts. The 400 was whittled down to a shortlist of 20, from which Dingle Original Gin was chosen as winner.

The gin was described by Peter Mosley as 'uniquely Irish botanicals, give a fabulously fresh, floral character that perfectly balances the traditional juniper. But, to be honest, you really have to taste it for yourself.'

The gin is produced in the Dingle Whiskey Distillery, launched in 2012 by the Porterhouse group Liam LaHart, the late Oliver Hughes and Peter Mosley. At the time just two gins were produced in Ireland however the recent explosion of interest in gin saw 12 brands being launched in 2018.

#### Go For Life Group

The Go For Life group in Laragh/Glendalough meet most Tuesdays, so if you fancy a chat, a cuppa and some light exercise, bowls, and music, come along at 11am, they welcome any newcomer. The group meet for lunch once a month at various venues. For further information, call Denise at the Brockagh Centre on (0404) 45600 or drop in.

## East Wicklow Rivers Trust to hold public information meeting

The recently-established East Wicklow Rivers Trust (EWRT) is holding its first public meeting and would encourage anyone who is interested in the protection of Wicklow's rivers to attend.

Luke Drea, Chair of the EWRT said "The EWRT is a charitable organisation whose aim is to protect, conserve and improve, with the help of local communities, our riverine systems in East Wicklow. We have been set up with the support of the Local Authority Waters and Communities

Office and the Rivers Trust Organisation and our remit covers all rivers that rise in Wicklow and empty into the Irish Sea off County Wicklow.

"Our voluntary Board of Directors is made up of people with expertise in riverine and ecological management, community engagement and corpo-

rate governance; and we all have a real passion to care for our watercourses. However, we are a new and small group and local involvement is key to any successful River Trust. We would encourage anyone that has an interest in rivers and aquatic environments to come along and find out what

we're all about, and perhaps get involved."

The meeting will be held at 8pm, Thursday, 21st March in the Meeting of the Waters Bar. If anyone would like more info, please email: [wicklowrivers@mail.com](mailto:wicklowrivers@mail.com) for more info.

## Community tree planting a great success

Around 70 people turned out last Saturday morning to the lower slopes of Bray Head to plant 300 native Irish trees in a community tree planting initiative organised by Councillor Steven Matthews along with Bray Tidy Towns.

It was the fourth year of tree planting in the area and approximately 2000 trees have been planted so far. A number of groups came on board to lend a hand including the Bray Head Residents Association, Common Ground, Bray Emmets as well as a large number of families and individuals.

Councillor Steven Matthews said around 70 people aged from 3 up to 70 years of age took part.

"There was great enthusiasm and support for the event and many people expressed their concern at how trees and hedgerows are being decimated across our countryside. Community events like this are important to offset the loss of trees elsewhere but it's equally important that people lobby their elected representatives to ensure our natural habitats are protected.

"Next year I'm hoping to start replanting across the site damaged by fires in 2018."

Councillor Matthews thanked Bray Municipal District and Nicky Fusco of Fusco Foods who supported the event.



Cllr Steven Matthews with Ezra and Eve Starlight Doyle-Matthews at the tree planting day on Bray Head.



Denise McCarthy, Margaret Tracy and Veronica Nolan at the recent coffee morning in the Brockagh Centre, Laragh, in aid of the Irish Heart Foundation.

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# Nun so brave!

A Bray nun who works in South Sudan has been awarded a prestigious honour by the US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and US First Lady Melania Trump. Sr Orla Treacy received the International Women of Courage Award at the US State Department in Washington. Sr Treacy, who is a member of the Loreto congregation, was commended for working to empower young women and girls in conflict-torn South Sudan "at great personal risk and sacrifice".

In 2017 she received the Hugh O'Flaherty International Humanitarian Award.

Having spent a summer in India with the Loreto Sisters, at the age of 24 she decided to join the Order. Based at the Loreto Convent in Rathfarnham, she was professed as a Loreto Nun in September 2005, but within a year, she headed to the large

The 'Women of Courage' awards honour "women around the world who have demonstrated exceptional courage, strength, and leadership in acting to bring positive change to their societies, often at great personal risk and sacrifice."

The Bray-born nun spends much of her time combating what she terms the "everyday reality" of fami-

youngest state.

"Locally over 52% of girls are married prior to their 18th birthdays, as many as 17% report being married before turning 15," she wrote. She underlined that the traditional practice often places further limits on already vulnerable girls' future choices.

In January's Loreto Rumbek



Sr Orla Treacy

African state of Sudan with four other Loreto nuns to establish a Mission in a diocese the size of Italy with just two secondary schools. She spent the last 11 years in Sudan, experiencing the trauma of South Sudan becoming an autonomous independent state in 2011 followed by Civil war in 2013. Today, South Sudan is widely considered one of the most fragile states in the world with continuing conflict and unrest. Sr Orla is now the Principal of Loreto Secondary School in Rumbek in Lakes State, in South Sudan with over 200 girls. It is adjacent to the Loreto Primary School where they have over 500 boys and girls.

Sr Treacy has succeeded in encouraging attendance at the secondary school, which she continues to run, along with a primary school and a local clinic.

lies in South Sudan forcing young girls into arranged marriages. She says so-called "forced marriages" have only recently been included in UN statistics on modern slavery.

RTÉ's Religious and Social Affairs Correspondent Joe Little met Sister Orla 15 months ago and has been tracking the campaign by the Loreto community in war-torn Rumbek, which earned her last week's accolade.

The Catholic community now runs a burgeoning primary school, a women's shelter and a health facility. In a recent dispatch from the town Sr Orla, who is an experienced teacher, highlighted how her order's secondary school has been resisting forced marriage in South Sudan. In her mission's newsletter she said forced girl child marriage is a major issue in sub-Saharan Africa generally and specifically in Africa's

newsletter, Sr Orla also emphasised the broader role played by the congregation's mission in supporting girls facing forced marriage.

She wrote: "They can often feel very alone and hopeless in their situation which puts their emotional health at risk. "To help them through this rough period, Loreto provides a broad network of support. The secondary school's School Family system is a surrogate family for these girls, with 'mothers' and 'grandmothers' who encourage them to resist forced marriages and to complete their studies.

"In many cases, these mentors serve as a 'first response team,' advocating for the girls from the beginning of their studies. The school also provides a trained counsellor for group and individual support, as well as female teachers and students who are trained as peer counsellors.

## €30k for conferences

Wicklow County Council recently sent a memo to councillors asking them to adhere to the €2,000 budget allocated to them for conferences over the course of a year. Six of the 32 councillors exceeded the annual €2,000 training budget in 2018, with Independent Councillor Tommy Cullen and Aountu Councillor Brendan Thornhill topping the list having claimed almost €7,000 between them for attending conferences throughout the year.

The six Wicklow councillors with the top spend for conferences in 2018 were Councillor Tommy Cullen (€3,517.94), Councillor Brendan Thornhill (€3,378.72), Councillor Tommy Annesley (€3,285.21), Councillor Pat Kennedy (€2,927.15), Councillor Vincent Blake (€2,694.01) and Councillor Gail Dunne (€2,172.08).

Seven councillors attended no training conference events during 2018, they were Cllrs Tom Fortune, Christopher

Fox, Mary Kavanagh, Miriam Murphy, Michael O'Connor and Oliver O'Brien.

Five councillors had a conference expense spend of between €1k and the allowed limit of 2k, they were Cllrs Pat Fitzgerald (€1,901.40) Gerry Walsh (€1,802.65) Shay Cullen (€1,566.41), Sylvester Bourke (€1,292.92), and Pat Doran (€1,133.71).

Fourteen councillors had a conference expense of between €100 and €1000. They were Cllrs Joe Behan (€100), Nicola

Lawless (€100), Grainne McLoughlin (€100), Daire Nolan (€100), John Ryan (€100), Edward Timmins (€100), Jennifer Whitmore (€100), Irene Winters (€160), Derek Mitchell (€304), John Snell (€520), Gerry O'Neill (€616), Pat Vance (€707), James Ruttle (€777) and Steven Matthews (€944).

In all €30,403.28 was spent on conference expenses, with a breakdown of €7,894.00 for conference costs and €22,464.28 on

mileage claims.

Councillor Brendan Thornhill told *Wicklow Times* he was 'not aware of any limit for spending'.

He added, "During the past year I have attended numerous conferences covering education for councillors to be of assistance in dealing with constituency queries, in particular issues relating to accessing grants, housing and information. All expenses claimed were in accordance with public service guidelines and invoiced accordingly."



Pictured: Padraig and Deirdre Lancaster at the Tinahely GAA dinner dance in the Ashdown Park Hotel, Gorey.

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# HIGH TURNOUT AT LOCAL ENTERPRISE EVENTS

County Wicklow's small businesses and entrepreneurs gathered in large numbers during Local Enterprise Week, an initiative of the Local Enterprise Offices across the country, which is now in its 5th year.



Ian Jarrett (Ireland at Home) and Tara Sterling-Byrne were at the Wicklow Local Enterprise Office Tech Seminar with Noel Davidson. Photos by Mary Fogarty.



Geraldine O'Meadhra, Move Upwards Ltd, and Patricia O'Regan, In the Works, were at the Wicklow Local Enterprise Office Tech Seminar with Noel Davidson.

Run by the 31 Local Enterprise Offices (LEO), events took place from Monday 4th March to Friday 8th March, and all events were open to all, particularly entrepreneurs and those with small businesses.

The events in Co. Wicklow covered Human Resource Management, Digital Marketing and Business Advice clinics, a sales training course, Start Your Own Business Course and a Seminar called: Working Smarter in Business using Tech which was attended by over 40 business owners and entrepreneurs.

Close to 100 LEO Wicklow clients availed of the free and highly subsidized supports and training opportunities during the week to brush up on essential business skills in order to grow their business. The Tech seminar with guest speaker Noel Davidson highlighted the numerous free apps available to business managers that can save them time and money. One participant commented on the seminar afterwards saying 'That was just Magic'.

The Local Enterprise Offices support over 7,000 small Irish businesses and entrepreneurs nationwide who employ in excess of 36,000 people. The LEOs supported the creation of 3,600 jobs in 2018 with funding to small businesses and provide a range of supports such as mentoring, training and industry specific expert advice to assist businesses who are at any stage of their development. The Local Enterprise Offices are funded by the Government of Ireland through Enterprise Ireland in partnership with the Local Authorities.

Vibeke Delahunt, Head of Enterprise, emphasised what a unique opportunity this is for businesses and



Shane McDermott from Kilcoole Vets and Valerie Keating from Wicklow Veterinary Clinic were at the Wicklow Local Enterprise Office Tech Seminar with Noel Davidson.

entrepreneurs around the country: "The Local Enterprise Office are an essential resource for any entrepreneur or small company in Ireland and Local Enterprise Week offers everyone the opportunity to understand what the LEO offers. It is also a fantastic chance for people to learn from the array of great speakers and to network with other like-minded entrepreneurs and business people in their area. Small Irish businesses rely on the support of those in their communities, particularly in those tough first years and with the uncertainty of Brexit looming. Local Enterprise Week is the perfect opportunity to learn what resources are available on your door step and who in your network can help your business to plan, start and grow."



Noel Davidson, guest speaker, and Vibeke Delahunt, Wicklow Head of Enterprise, pictured at the Wicklow Local Enterprise Office Tech Seminar.



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## NCPS claim parking operative being intimidated

NCPS (National Controlled Parking Systems) have said that one of its parking operatives is experiencing 'unfair harassment' and 'intimidation' by some people/drivers in Greystones.

This harassment, say NCPS, has taken the form of the man being regularly photographed as he goes about his work in Greystones and threats being made by individuals to post those photos on social media platforms and in local media outlets.

An NCPS spokesperson said "As will be appreciated, this situation is causing great distress to our employee and is worsened by people taking his photograph and threatening to distribute these photos on social media.

"This man is simply going about this job, working on behalf of clients who have engaged our services to regulate parking on their property and he should be free to do so without fear or intimidation. We would appeal to the person or persons doing this in Greystones to stop and reconsider their actions."



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Saundra Martin, Paul O'Brien, Theresa Martin, Cllr Daire Nolan, Christine Lee, Ciara Perks, Anne Gregory and Veronica Roche are pictured in the Parkview Hotel in Newtown at the fashion show in aid of the Irish Cancer Society.

## Concerns over spend of development levies

The Council's Capital Programme (2019-2021) does not allocate enough to roads and amenities in the Greystones Municipal District, according to Cllr Derek Mitchell.

The Council's Capital Budget for the next three years was discussed at last Monday's meeting, where Cllr Mitchell described the allocation for the Greystones Municipal District as "completely unacceptable".

€10 million of the Council's Capital Programmes budget comes from levies on development which is spent on roads and amenities.

Speaking after the meeting, Cllr Derek Mitchell said "My concern is that they are building everywhere in Greystones and Kilcoole, probably 800 homes at the moment, and there is an urgent need for roads, paths and amenity facilities. However the plan only allocates 4% of road spending and 7% of amenity spending to the Greystones area even though at least 30% of the development levies are collected there. These levies are meant to fund infrastructure which supports this housing and not as a general County fund.



Cllr Derek Mitchell

"It does contain the Delgany to Blacklion road but at much less than I estimate it to cost. It does not contain any funding for the recently approved Delgany Village Path and Road scheme nor for roads in Kilcoole needed to support recent and future houses. The area is being stripped of funds collected and needed to support this growth."

Cllr Sylvester Bourke also expressed concerns about the spend of development levies in the Arklow District. "What will happen in Arklow? We don't have much development yet but we will in three years' time when the sewage plant is under construction. I'm concerned that in our area

in Arklow because we're very south of the county we're competing now with Wexford county council's development charges, for commercial development levies."

Cllr Bourke said he was concerned Arklow would lose business to Gorey due to Wexford's lower development levies.

"Our current rate is 45 euros a square metre in Arklow, and seeing as we have given an exemption for the film industry, I was wondering should we look at reduced development charges for manufacturing industries? I am quite concerned that we will start losing businesses to the Gorey area. I know one case of a business that's expanding and is considering moving to Gorey to save at least €100,000 on development charges on expansion project," added Cllr Bourke.

Cllr Pat Fitzgerald observed that "other companies are willing to come to Arklow and there's no problem about development levies."

## Ballywaltrim Post Office in Bray closes down

Ballywaltrim Post Office in Bray has had to close due to the sad passing of its Postmistress Ann McCartney.

The contract for the post office had recently been advertised and the closing date was Friday 1st March.

Expressing his condolences, John Brady TD

said "I wish to extend my sincere condolences to the family and friends of Ann, she will be sorely missed by everyone in the community. I have been working with An

Post to try find a way to keep it open until a new contractor was appointed; unfortunately they say they couldn't find a temporary solution. This is a fantastic Post Office,

with brilliant staff and is an important part of the community and is an important social outlet for many people, particularly the elderly. Myself and my colleague Cllr

Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien are putting pressure on An Post to ensure that the Post Office is reopened as quickly as possible and that the brilliant staff are accommodated."

Rotary Club of Bray



# TABLE QUIZ

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# WICKLOW OPENS ITS DOORS TO SYRIAN FAMILIES

Approximately 38 Syrian families will be allocated to County Wicklow under the Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP), Wicklow County Council has been informed.

An Interagency Committee has been established to ensure the necessary supports across the board are in place prior to the arrival of the families in the county.

Speaking at last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council, Chief Executive Frank Curran said the number of refugees was in line with other counties of a similar size to Co. Wicklow.

This Committee is chaired by the Council and has participants from the HSE, TUSLA, Department of Social Protection, KWETB, Co Wicklow Partnership, MABS, Citizens Information, Wicklow Co Childcare Committee, An Garda Síochána, and Wicklow Volunteer Centre, with support provided by the Community Directorate and the Housing Directorate of Wicklow County Council.

The Committee, led by Wicklow County Council will: Act as management team for the resettlement project in the area; Ensure financial probity with regard to funding from the EU under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF); Act at all times to ensure that refugees receive their rights and entitlements; Work as a group to select an implementing partner who will employ two Resettlement Support Workers and two Intercultural Support Workers; Work in partnership with all other members to ensure successful resettlement.

The accommodation needs will be met by a suite of options, primarily in partnership with other service providers and it is intended to accommodate the families across the Municipal Districts where suitable accommodation has been identified and sourced and the necessary supports can be provided.

Accordingly, meet-

ings have taken place with Approved Housing Bodies to provide extra accommodation for this programme.

The Irish Government has given a commitment to resettle approximately 4,000 refugees and asylum seekers in Ireland under a programme called the Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP).

The migrants largely originate from Syria and Eritrea, and are currently in Greece and Lebanon. Those granted refugee status will be entitled to the same range of public services and supports, as Irish Citizens.

Once in Ireland the new arrivals will be provided with temporary accommodation in a number of Emergency Reception and Orientation Centres (EROCs) located in various parts of the country. At these centres, the refugees progress through an orientation process which includes English language classes.

Cllr Jennifer Whitmore said "I am supportive of the decision to take in 38 Syrian refugee families into Wicklow and I truly hope that Wicklow will be a welcoming and safe place for them. It has been 8 years since the war started in Syria and we have watched with horror at the violence, death and destruction that has happened over that time. And if we can help these people, even in a little way, I believe that is a good thing."

A member of the Wicklow Welcomes group told *Wicklow Times* "The relocation of a Syrian refugee family in Wicklow Town last has proven to be very successful, and the asylum seekers in the Grand Hotel have also integrated very well into the local community, they've been helping out in charity shops, with the Tidy Towns groups,

and they'll be helping out at the St. Patrick's Day parade."



Alan Byrne from Scoil Chonglais Post Primary School in Baltinglass was awarded 2nd place in Leaving Certificate Construction Studies (Higher) at the Techno Teachers Association Awards. He is pictured with Principal Patricia Gurhy, Techno Teachers Chairman Stephen O'Brien, CIF Director General Tom Parlon, and Minister for Training, Skills Innovation Research and Development John Halligan TD.

# LAND WANTED

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**The land may be owned by a local farmer, a school, a business or an individual. If you are interested in hearing more please contact:**

**Rory Gillen @ 087 830 7100 or [rory.gillen@gillenmarkets.com](mailto:rory.gillen@gillenmarkets.com)**





# WICKLOW COMPANY SETS THE STANDARD IN CONSTRUCTION RECYCLING AND RECOVERY

Seán Canney TD Minister of State for Natural Resources, Community Affairs and Andrew Doyle TD Minister of State for Food, Forestry and Horticulture paid a visit to Marrakesh Ltd in Kilmurry, Kilmacanogue last week.

They were responding to an invitation from the Soil Recovery Association (SRA) which is a National Organisation which represents members involved in the excavation, transport and recovery of soil and stones at authorised permitted and licensed soil and stone recovery facilities.

Pat Murphy, Chairman of the Soil Recovery

Association of Ireland said "The meeting with the ministers was in relation to usage of Recycled Aggregates and issues with Construction and Demolition waste. The Minister visited Marrakesh on request to see one of the best examples of a working site of this type in the country. He was delighted to see what can be achieved with

the waste material and the standards that we as a group aim to achieve with our members.

By virtue of Marrakesh being the longest serving site in the country of its type the Minister saw first-hand the level of knowledge, experience and skill that is available for Ireland to achieve the EU targets set on re-uses of this type of material.

While we will not achieve the 2020 targets as set by the EU for this waste stream as has already been acknowledged by the Government, having more sites of this type working to this standard will help to rectify this going forward. This has been recognized by the Department and the

Government and we are working towards redressing this issue through working with the relevant stakeholders via the Construction Waste Resource Group. This was formed last June and our Group is one of the stakeholders."

Minister Doyle said "The EU points up the need for Recovery, Recycling and Reuse of construction material and what the SRA are advocating for is a register and testing certification of construction waste, which is a misnomer, because it should not be viewed as waste rather as a useable product. There needs to be national standards established."

Here in Wicklow, Marrakesh, headed up by Antonia Lawlor is leading the way and are at the cutting edge of this recycling initiative. We need to see local authorities

and road builders using more recycled construction products like recycled concrete.

"I am delighted that Minister Sean Canney was here to see how best practice is evolving as he is the relevant minister for this sector and with his engineering background he has an avid interest in this sector and I must say Marrakesh is a credit to this business."

Some 380 million tonnes of construction and demolition waste are generated every year and most of it ends up in landfills. Re-using and recycling components and materials is good for the environment and saves money, but industry has been less than enthusiastic. An EU-funded research project has laid the foundations for change - it is promoting concrete, ceramics, gypsum and plastics recycling around Europe.

Recycling and re-using parts from old buildings makes sense - it creates less waste, makes construction cheaper and reduces the use of raw resources (more than 50% of all materials extracted from the earth are currently transformed into construction materials and products).

The EU thinks it makes sense too, and in 2008 set a target: by 2020, the recovery of non-hazardous construction and demolition waste should rise to 70% - as measured by weight. But the industry has not followed suit.

There is a certain stigma attached to re-use, while it is trendy to re-use things in some sectors, like clothing, this is not the case in the construction sector.

The governments Green Public Procurement (GPP) is defined as: "A process whereby public and semi-public authorities meet their needs for goods, services, works and utilities by choosing solutions that have a reduced impact on the environment throughout their life-cycle, as compared to alternative products/solutions."

The concepts of life-cycle analysis (LCA) and life-cycle costing (LCC) are at the heart of GPP, and require buyers and suppliers to consider not just the up-front purchase costs of a given solution, but its total economic and environmental cost from cradle to grave.. This has been driven not only by the emphasis on environmental responsibility, but also by the need to reduce costs.



Antonia Lawlor shows some of the recovered and reusable material to Ministers Doyle and Canney.



Minister of State Andrew Doyle with Minister of State for Rural Affairs and Natural Resources Sean Canney, and Antonia and Tony Lawlor during a visit to Marrakesh Ltd, Kilmurray Lodge, Kilmacanogue.



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## HOW MARREKESH EVOLVED INTO A 'GREEN' & REGULATED RECOVERY BUSINESS

Antonia Lawlor, taking after her father is now the fourth generation of her family to be operating on site of Marrakesh Ltd in Kilmurray, Co Wicklow. Marrakesh Ltd was set up in 1983 by Tony and Lena Lawlor which was originally a sand and stone quarry. However, in the late 90's Tony Lawlor saw the need for change. He realised that Ireland was changing and that there was a need for properly regulated construction and demolition waste management. Through careful and continuous planning, education and research Tony moved the operation to where it is today.

In November 2000 Marrakesh Ltd was granted an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) licence.

Marrakesh Ltd current activities include:

- EPA Licence Landfill W0048-01
- Construction and Demolition Waste Management and Recycling.
- Variety of crushed materials, screened soils, sands and stones.

- Wicklow County Council Waste Facility Permit
- Kilmurray WFP-WW-14-0010-02
- Tomirisland WFP-WW-18-0041-01
- Waste Collection Permit Holder - NWCPO-11-09567-02

One thing that struck Tony on his visits to other sites similar to that of Marrakesh Ltd (from Holland, Germany, Denmark, Austria even as far as the USA) was what could be done with the concrete that entered the facilities. This would mean that what was traditionally seen as waste would now have the potential to be a viable product and would be diverted away from landfill. Crushing started onsite with the hire of a small Extec crusher. Looking back now it is hard to believe that it all started with one small crusher. Seeing how far they have come since then by heavily investing in the infrastructure and working continually within the parameters of the EPA licence and the Council permits.

The Marrakesh Ltd

facility is surpassing the 2020 target for reuse and recycling of construction waste and demolition waste. In 2018 almost 90% of the material that entered the facility was recycled and reused. Unfortunately, this is not the norm for most sites and Ireland will not meet the targets set by the EU. An end of waste criteria for concrete needs to be commissioned and sanctioned by the EPA. This in turn will encourage for example the Local Authorities to follow the Green Procurement document for the use of recycled aggregates.

Marrakesh Ltd has commissioned what is called an Article 28. To the layman this means that basically they are proving that once they have processed the material at their facility to a high standard, and with laboratory testing done on the material, it will no longer be a waste but now a viable product. They would prefer that a standard through the End of Waste criteria was set up so that the standard throughout the country would be the same.





# NWETSS will not be homeless

North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School will be allowed stay at its Putland Road site in Bray until at least June 2020, the school learned last Wednesday. It was feared that the school would be left without a location when the lease on the current school building ends next month.

Minister Simon Harris said "I have continuously highlighted the very serious need for urgent action on the permanent home for NWETSS with the KWETB and indeed with the Minister for Education. This lengthy period of uncertainty has been very difficult for everyone involved. I am pleased that an agreement has been reached with the land owner at the current site to extend the lease to June 2020 should it be needed. This should provide some security for exam year students and allow the school management to plan ahead for the year to come.

"Although this is far from the solution to the overall problem, i.e. the urgent need to get the permanent building built, it does provide time and space for the Department to resolve the issue. I will contin-

ue to work as hard as I can with the Department of Education to ensure work on a permanent school building gets under way as soon as possible."

Speaking after receiving the news, John Brady TD said "I welcome confirmation this week from the Department of Education and Skills that agreement has been reached to ensure that North Wicklow Educate Together can remain in their current temporary accommodation on Putland Road in Bray until at least June 2020. There was a lot of uncertainty as to what was going to happen when the current lease expired on 30th April.

"I have had numerous meetings with the Minister of Education on the issue to ensure that the pending crisis for the teachers and the pupils was dealt with by

the Department of Education and Skills. Getting agreement on extending the lease was not straightforward as there was a High Court settlement between the owner of the temporary premises where North Wicklow Educate Together School is currently located and the KWETB dating from 2015. Vacant possession of that premises on 30 April 2019 was included in the settlement. To further complicate the situation the site where the school is located was also for sale."

Deputy Brady went on to say "The Dept looked at a number of alternative options and carried out a number of site visits to ensure that a contingency plan was in place if their preferred option of extending the lease on Putland Road didn't materialise. I however would be very critical that they left it essentially to the

twelfth hour and that caused fear and anxiety for many.

"There was also a lot of uncertainty for the school and for parents who have their children's names down for enrollment in the school. In 2013, patronage was awarded to Educate Together for a 1,000-pupil school in Bray. North Wicklow Educate Together School subsequently opened in September 2016 in temporary accommodation on Putland Road in Bray. The school has 180 pupils and 60 of them are due to sit their junior certificate examination next year. The school is also set to grow to 300 pupils next September.

"Now that the uncertainty has been removed for the school until at least June 2020 the Department and the Minister must immediately address the long



Comedian Des Bishop and Vinny Byrne of Arklow Rock Parnell's GAA Club make a presentation to Breda Kelly and Rose Murphy of Arklow Cancer Support at Glenart College.

term needs for North Wicklow Educate Together by progressing plans and developing a new permanent school.

Welcoming the news, Stephen Donnelly said "It's not yet clear the exact nature of the agreement reached between the Department of Education and the owner of the building,

who's within his legal rights to sell and has given authorities adequate notice, but the 'For Sale' sign has been taken down at the property on Putland Road. While the latest change is a welcome reprieve there are still long-term concerns for NWETSS. The Minister for Education has indicated

it is his 'clear intention' that the school will still move to a newly-built, permanent residence on the Novara Road in Bray on the campus of Bray Institute of Further Education. However there has been little progress on the move and the lack of information is making people anxious."

Alice O'Donnell, Fine Gael local election candidate for Greystones welcomed the announcement that North Wicklow Educate Together can remain at its current site until June 2020, and said "I want to see this school in its permanent building as soon as possible".

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# Happy St. Patrick's Day



In less than a week's time, the entire county will be awash with green as Wicklow celebrates another St Patrick's Day. The celebration of our patron saint on Sunday, 17th March promises to be a spectacular affair in Co Wicklow this year with parades in all of the main towns, festivities, fun fairs, family fun and much more.

## BRAY

This year St. Patrick's Festival in Bray will be focusing on great family fun with a strong emphasis on celebrating the town's multicultural community. The festival will run from Thursday, March 14th

until Monday, March 18th and it will feature Bird's Euroshow funfair, live music, an open-air céilí, the St. Patrick's Day Parade plus loads more. Over the St. Patrick's long weekend you can enjoy plenty of events including a funfair, live music, an open-air céilí, puppet

shows, street theatre, walks, trails and of course the main event the Festival Parade. It's 5 days of great family fun. This year's Grand Marshal is Michael Kelleher. Michael, who recently retired, was one of the most well-known and well-loved librarians in

Bray Library. Thousands are expected to line the town's streets for the St. Patrick's Day parade on Sunday, March 17th at 3 pm. Visitors are in for a treat from the sights and sounds of the marching bands and majorettes to local groups, clubs and much more. Road closures will be in place on Sunday, March 17th from 2 pm until after 4 pm to facilitate the Parade. Roads affected include Main Street, Quinsboro Road, Seapoint Road and Strand Road.

## GREYSTONES

The Greystones Parade will start at 12noon at the Greystones Park & Ride and will progress up through the town, finishing at the old cinema. The Reviewing stand will be at St. Patrick's Church of Ireland. Awards will be made for the following categories: Most Original Entry; Most Colourful Entry; Best Uniformed Organisation; Best



Chairman of the Rathdrum St. Patrick's Day parade Jimmy O'Shaughnessy with this year's Grand Marshal of the parade, student Sean Byrne from Avondale Community College who achieved great things in this year's Young Scientist competition.

Traditional Entry; Most Topical Entry; Most Entertaining Entry; Best Social/Cultural Entry; Best Sports Entry; Best Commercial Entry; Best Musical Entry; Overall

Parade Winner. A Window Display Competition will also be held. The aim of competition is to encourage local businesses and organizations to decorate their

windows for Ireland's National Day. No application form is required for this competition. All decorated premises will be inspected and judged by an independent

panel of judges. Please return parade applications to Greystones Municipal District. The cost of entry for clubs and organisations is €20; and for commercial entries it's €40.

**MINISTER SIMON HARRIS TD**  
Wishing everybody a very happy St Patrick's Day, with special thanks to all organisers and volunteers throughout the County

 Always eager to assist

**NORTH WICKLOW:** Office 4, Market Court, Main Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow.  
**WEST WICKLOW:** Suite 4, The Civic Building, Blessington, Co. Wicklow.

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**FINE GAEL**

Wishing all in Wicklow a Very Happy St. Patrick's Day

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## WICKLOW TOWN

The Wicklow Town St. Patrick's Day parade will start at Whitegates at 3:15pm, and will continue up the Main Street finishing at Market Square, where there will be a reviewing stand. Prizes will be awarded across a number of categories including Best Theme, Best Band, Best Sporting entry, and Most Original Entry.

If you have not yet registered your participation, the Parade committee are looking forward to hearing from you. You

# Stephen Donnelly

Working for the people of Wicklow and East Carlow

Thanks to the amazing Volunteers, Organisers, Wicklow County Council and participants. Wishing everyone a very successful St. Patrick's Day

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# Happy St. Patrick's Day

can email wicklowparade@gmail.com or download and application form from the Wicklow Parade Facebook page. Local historian Stan O'Reilly is this year's Grand Marshal for the Wicklow Parade. The parade promises to be a colourful event with this year's 'Carnival' theme. Bands from Germany and France will be taking part as well as Irish bands.

## ARKLOW

The theme of this year's Arklow St. Patrick's Day parade is "Reeling back the years" which gives groups, floats and marching groups plenty of scope for creativity. Do not forget there is a prize for the Best Window Display, which is open to all shops, pubs, and businesses in the town which the committee would love to see as many as possible being creative and celebrating St. Patrick's Day. Mary Hickey has been announced as this year's Grand Marshall for the Parade. A very popular choice, Mary is not one to rest on

her laurels where in 2018 she completed the RNLI Lap of the Map and raised €73,000 in the process. Please note all marching groups should assemble on Mellows Avenue for 1.30pm and Commercial Floats/Displays should be on Yellow Lane for 1.15pm. Early arrival by all participants is encouraged to get off promptly for 2pm sharp.

The route for this year's parade is Via Mellows Avenue, Nabby Hill, Abbey Street, Hudson's Square and on to the Main Street. Reviewing stand at the Parade Ground. Dispersal after Parade passes the platform at the Courthouse. Parade Ground. Groups to go up St. Mary's Road and Commercial Vehicles/Floats to drive right up to the top of Main Street. Please obey all stewards and Gardaí and allow for some traffic delays. The committee said "If you wish to enter this year's parade please contact Tina O'Sullivan, Chairperson, on 087

9093848, Tommy Annesley, Jim Hoey in The Bridge Hotel or Donal Molloy in Le Chef. There is no entry fee, but a donation would be most welcome to defray some of the costs including insurances and prizes. Entries will be taken also on the day, so if you are attending other parades nearby you are most welcome to travel to Arklow, where you will get a warm welcome."

## NEWTOWN

The Newtown parade starts at 11:30am from Gregory's Garage, and will go through Killadreenan and into the village, down the Main Street and back to the reviewing stand at Druids Well. Prizes will be awarded for best float, best shop window, and other categories. Newtown is the fastest growing village in Ireland and new residents are encouraged to come out to celebrate the day. Those wishing to register for participation in the parade can contact Ann Duffy on (01) 2819716. It will be a



Arklow St. Patrick's Day committee members Donal Molloy, Colm Moules, Dicey O'Reilly, Mary Burke, Vinny Byrne, and Jon Hoey are pictured with the 2019 Parade Grand Marshal Mary Hickey.

Community parade rather than a commercial parade, and the focus will be on local clubs, voluntary groups and organisations.

## CARNEW

The Carnew parade starts at 1pm (floats need to be in place by 12:30pm). Entry forms are available from Carnew TDC, Candy's, Kinsella Estates, and Victor's. Prizes will be awarded in a number of

categories including Best Overall Float, Most Entertaining and Best Window Display. The Parade will begin at Kenny's Corner House and will proceed through the town.

## AUGHIRM

The Aughrim Parade will start at 11:15am from Tinnakilly Bridge, and will make its way to the viewing stand at The Monument. The parade

is open to floats, walking groups, vintage cars and tractors, etc. Prizes will be awarded in numerous categories including best shop window. Application forms are available from the pharmacy. The theme of the parade is the four seasons.

## RATHDRUM

The Rathdrum Parade will begin at 12:00pm, starting at Avon Motors.

The Grand Marshal will be 6th year student Sean Byrne from Avondale Community College who achieved great things in this year's Young Scientist competition. Prizes will be awarded in nine categories. The Parnell memorial band, and locals sports clubs and organisations will be taking part.

## BLESSINGTON

The Blessington parade

begins at 12pm. St. Patrick's Day parades in Blessington are a new tradition, with the village holding its first in 2017. It will begin at Blessington Education Centre.

## BALTINGLASS

The Baltinglass Parade starts from Lathaleere Industrial Estate at 12:30pm, featuring the Ballymore Brass & Reed Band.

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**ANDREW DOYLE TD**  
Minister of State for Food, Forestry and Horticulture

Continued success to all those involved in St. Patrick's Day events this weekend. The volunteers, organisers and all the community groups who will take part.

**FINE GAEL**

Minister of State for Food, Forestry and Horticulture  
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine  
minister.doyle@agriculture.gov.ie  
Ph: 01 6072977

To contact me: Tel : 0404 66622  
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Pictured at the Book Club Festival in Ennis last week were Roundwood Book Club members Eileen Patterson from Laragh and Anne Byrne from Lough Dan.

## Pure Mile 2019-2020 now closed for entries

Due to an unprecedented number of groups entering the 2019-2020 Pure Mile applications of interest are now closed.

The Pure Mile encourages communities and groups living in rural areas to adopt a mile, or miles of road, and work together to keep these areas litter and rubbish free. Groups also research information about their local wild flowers, plants, trees and animals. Other projects focus on the history and folklore, or, the built, cultural and social heritage of the area.

Special interest groups such as, walking groups, cycling groups, scout groups, businesses, and organisations, can adopt a mile, or miles of road, in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands and help Pure to Clean Up The Uplands. Pure provide all groups with signage, bags, gloves, litter pickers and high-vis vests, and they also remove all of the rubbish collected by the groups.

Ian Davis, Manager of Pure, stated "The Pure Mile has been a great success and all credit goes to the numerous groups involved in the project. There are so many beautiful areas in county Wicklow and each one has something unique and interesting to offer. The groups that take part in the Pure Mile really make a

difference to the areas they live in, or recreate in, and the amount of applications and interest this year has been amazing."

Pure received an unprecedented number of entries this year, and now there are over 280 miles or roads, upland areas, mountains, valleys, woodlands, and beaches signed up to the 2019/2020 project. However, due to this high number, the project is unfortunately unable to accept anymore applications.

The manager of Pure is currently meeting all of the groups involved in this years project, and a huge number of litter picks, clean-ups, anti-dumping initiatives, heritage projects and special events, have already taken place, with a lot more planned for 2019 and 2020.

All groups who enter the Pure Mile are invited to the Pure Mile Gala Event, and all receive a Certificate of Participation, a selection of Native Irish Trees, and all groups feature in the Pure Mile Calendar.

## Professor Noel Mulcahy, former FF senator and advisor has died at the age of 89

Following a long career in education, politics and business, the death has occurred at St Vincent's Private Hospital, Elmpark, Dublin, of Limerick born An Ollamh Noel Ó Maolcatha / Prof. Noel William Mulcahy, a former member of Seanad Éireann, Vice-President of the University of Limerick and Fianna Fáil advisor.

His large Requiem Mass, which took place at St Patrick's Church, Kilquade, celebrated by the Very Rev. Fr. John Daly PP, was attended by an aide de camp representing the President of Ireland. A Fianna Fáil Guard of Honour was formed by Fianna Fáil members including former Minister Dick Roche, Pat Casey TD, Stephen Donnelly TD, former CERT and Central Remedial Clinic (CRC) chairman Jim Nugent amongst other Fianna Fáil members from counties Wicklow, Limerick, Clare and Dublin. The chief mourner was his wife Caroline supported by family and friends, with the large attendance including members of the late Taoiseach Charles J. Haughey's family, with whom Noel Mulcahy was a close political ally.

A former member of the RTÉ Authority and a director of the property developer McInerney Properties, Noel Mulcahy was appointed by the then Taoiseach Bertie Ahern to the National Forum on Europe following the failed Nice Treaty referendum in 2001 and in 2004 was appointed by Brian Cowen, Minister for Finance to the Financial Services Consumer Panel of the Central Bank of Ireland, in addition to serving on many other State bodies.

In advance of the 1977 general election, Noel

Mulcahy was part of the backroom Fianna Fáil strategy team which formulated the Fianna Fáil give-away manifesto, with many meetings taking place into the early hours at his then Dalkey home. He contested the 1977 general election for the Dublin North-Central constituency taking a vote share of nearly 14% but failing to win a seat, basing himself in the Sherriff Street/Séan McDermott Street area of Dublin where he had strong connections, which included the recent gangland murdered Niall Mulvihill 'The Silver Fox', a local criminal fixer believed to have been murdered over the stolen Beit collection paintings through Mulvihill's associations with Martin 'The General' Cahill. Following the election he was appointed to the 14th Seanad. In the 1980s Noel Mulcahy was appointed to Haughey's Strategy Committee.

Noel Mulcahy had previously worked on broadcasting technology, laying the groundwork in 1961 for Telefís Éireann, later becoming Deputy Director General of the Irish Management Institute before becoming Vice-President of the University of Limerick and Dean of Engineering and Science. He had a seminal influence on the founding of that institution through his work as chairman of the Steering Committee on Technical



Education from 1966, founding the Regional Technical Colleges, later to develop into the country's Institutes of Technology.

In recent years, upon coming from Killaloe, Co. Clare to Wicklow to be close to his large family, Noel Mulcahy became actively involved in Fianna Fáil locally and supporting the newly elected Pat Casey TD after the absence of a Fianna Fáil TD in Wicklow following the 2011 general election.

With the joining of Fianna Fáil by Stephen Donnelly TD, following his spells as a Non-Party TD then as a founding member of the Social Democrats, Noel Mulcahy became an advisor to Stephen Donnelly

TD, founding a Brexit committee to advise the then Fianna Fáil Brexit Spokesman, membership of which included Sean McCool of International Airline Marketing Ltd., who from the early 1980s was South Africa's Honorary Trade Commissioner to Ireland and founder of the Ireland South Africa Business Association in 1983, and David Boyd Barrett, an accountant previously with the South African based De Beers Diamonds.

Noel Ó Maolcatha / Noel Mulcahy is survived by his wife Caroline, and children Daragh, Colm, Aisling and Garech and by his sisters Phil, Majella and Anna.

## BIFE Arts Festival 2019

The BIFE Arts Festival returns to the Mermaid Arts Centre from March 20th - 28th, and promises to be an exciting showcase for new talent in Wicklow.

With a terrific line up of theatre, music and dance there is an event for every culture lover to enjoy.

**THEATRE:** Wed. 20 & Thurs. 21 March (Matinee 21st)

**Arabian Night**  
Written by Roland Schimmelpfennig.  
Translation by David Tushingham  
A bold take on the powerful and surreal Arabian Night comes to the Mermaid Arts Centre in Bray. Joined by the Music and Production departments, BIFE's Black Box Theatre Company will conjure their unique take on this

journey of self-discovery, betrayal and love in an immersive sonic experience. Wearing blindfolds, the audience are invited into this auditory mirage where the leaky pipes of the high-rise apartment become the soundtrack

**MUSIC:** FRIDAY 22ND March

**BIFE Music Goes Live!!**  
Following on from the success of last year's fantastic live show at Mermaid Arts Centre, Bray Institute of Further Education's Music Performance students will again take to the stage in

March to showcase their individual and collective talents in BIFE Music Goes Live!! Students of BIFE's Music Performance course will perform an eclectic mix of classics, lost gems and their own stunning original material. Come and support your rising stars of tomorrow!  
**DANCE:** Wed. 27th & Thurs. 28th March  
**BIFE DANCE**

'Kinesphere'  
Bray Institute of Further Education Dance students presents 'Kinesphere', a sensational and invigorating performance of dance and movement. This performance will feature

classical ballet, explosive jazz, and diverse contemporary dance. Well-known repertoire and debut performances of original choreography, by both students and

tutors, will also be featured. This is an excellent opportunity to see quality work and the talent of young dancers at BIFE.

For bookings go online to [mermaidartscentre.ie](http://mermaidartscentre.ie) or call the box office on (01) 272 4030.



**WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN

### PUBLIC CONSULTATION FOR THE PREPARATION OF FEASIBILITY REPORT FOR PROPOSED SWIMMING POOL IN BLESSINGTON

On behalf of Wicklow County Council, a Sport and Leisure Consultant, is currently preparing a Feasibility Report for a proposed swimming pool in Blessington, Co. Wicklow.

The purpose of this Feasibility Report is to evaluate the viability of a swimming pool in Blessington, Co. Wicklow.

Submissions or observations regarding the development of a proposed Swimming Pool in Blessington, Co. Wicklow are hereby invited from the public and interested bodies. Individuals, or groups or associations representing the interests of children and/or community groups, are encourage to make submissions or observations.

A submission or observation in relation to the proposed development, for the purpose of the Feasibility Report may be made, in writing to Garvan Hickey, District Administrator, Baltinglass Municipal District, Civic Offices, Blessington Business Park, Blessington, Co. Wicklow, before 5 p.m. on 19th March, 2019.





# WOMEN IN BUSINESS

## ashvalecreche

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### FULL DAY SERVICE CRÉCHE

My name is Riona Long and I am the owner of Ashvale Crèche in Wicklow Town. I first opened the doors to Ashvale creche back in 2005. I followed up my original qualifications in nursing and midwifery with a BA in Early Childhood Education and Care and an additional qualification in Montessori teaching.

As a parent myself, I understand the worries and fears a parent has leaving their little one in someone else's care, and I am available at all times to calm your worries and answer any questions about your child's health and welfare.

Alongside this, I have a fantastic long-standing team of staff who help me to make Ashvale Crèche such a welcoming place for children and their home away from home.

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[www.ashvalecreche.ie](http://www.ashvalecreche.ie)



Riona Long of Ashvale Crèche

Women in Wicklow were celebrated on International Women's Day last Friday. Events took place around the county, celebrating the achievements of Wicklow's women in business.



Women in Wicklow were celebrated on International Women's Day last Friday. Events took place around the county, celebrating the achievements of Wicklow's women in business.

The theme of this year's International Women's Day was 'Balance For Better', a call-to-action for driving gender balance across the world.

Although women have always contributed to the economic productivity of Ireland, they are still under-represented in the corporate world. Fewer women are self-employed and start up their own businesses.

For this reason, it is vital for women to come together and support and promote women led businesses.

There are many networks where women in business can meet in a supportive environment. Usually these groups will offer networking opportunities as well as training, mentoring and opportunities for women to call on other women with specialist expertise for help.

There are many businesses across the county being set up and run by women.

International Women's Day is a major day of global celebration of women. In different regions, the focus of the celebrations ranges from general celebration of respect, appreciation and love towards women to a celebration for women's economic, political and social achievements.

The day is an official holiday in some countries, in others it is not an official public holiday but is widely observed nonetheless.

## Anne GREGORY

*an upcoming candidate in the local elections and businesswoman in Newtownmountkennedy.*

*Wishing all the women in business continued success.*

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## Brooke & Shoals Fragrances

Brooke & Shoals is renowned for its award-winning fragrance products sold nationwide and also for its pretty gift boutique on the main street in Greystones.

Owner and founder **Alison Banton** is passionate about creating high quality products that are made in Ireland. Alison was recently awarded a Business Woman of the Year accolade and she knows well the hard work and dedication required to drive a business. A strong team is also part of the magic formula and the Brooke & Shoals team both in the Greystones shop and in the Kilcoole office are dedicated to growing the brand.

Call into Kay, Rita or Clara in Greystones to pick up a lovely candle, fragrance diffuser, or body products. They also have a range of stylish accessories, jewellery and gifts for that special occasion.



## Crafternoon Tea

Tea Room & Craft Shop

With International Women's Day just gone it's certainly a good time to highlight the contribution women are making in the business world whether on a local level or farther afield. Crafternoon Tea in Blessington is wholly owned and operated by **Patricia MacGabhann** and **Maureen Healy**.

They have produced a business that has enhanced the town of Blessington and has given both locals and visitors somewhere beautiful to relax and enjoy breakfast, lunch or lovely fresh bakes. Patricia advises, if you have an idea turn it into reality, its hard work and stressful at times, particularly in the early days but very rewarding!



[www.crafternoontea.ie](http://www.crafternoontea.ie)



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# BIFE ARTS FESTIVAL

Mermaid Theatre

DRAMA

Wed 20th March 8pm  
Thur 21st March 2pm and 8pm

MUSIC

Fri 22nd March 8pm

DANCE

Wed 27th March 8pm  
Thur 28th March 8pm

[www.bife.ie](http://www.bife.ie)



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# NATIONAL LEARNING NETWORK BRAY HOLD CERTIFICATION CEREMONY

National Learning Network held their Certification Ceremony in the Esplanade Hotel last Thursday. Over 60 present and past students received QQI certificates in a range of subjects from Business Administration to Employability Skills. They were joined by family and friends for the evening.



At the National Learning Network's certificate presentation night were Deborah Coughlin (Centre Manager), Orlaith Heffernan, Cllr Pat Vance, and Patricia Barrot. Pic: Eric Ronan



At the National Learning Network's certificate presentation night were NLN instructors Shay Hiney and Tony Kelly, with Ben Hoskin, Michal Turkowski, and Claire Kealy. Pic: Eric Ronan

The Guests of Honour on the night were the local Bray Band Wyvern Lingo. Karen Cowley, on behalf of the band, congratulated the students and praised their efforts in achieving their potential. She reminded the students that when they encounter obstacles to, "stay calm and remember that you are capable - you have already proved that by being here tonight."

Also speaking on the night, Michal Turkowski, a student at NLN Bray who was receiving his level 5 QQI major award in Information Processing, said "National Learning Network helped me get my life back on track and gave me the supports and structure I needed to help me successfully complete my QQI Level 5 Major Award. During my time in NLN, I had spinal surgery. The blended learning IT course allowed me to continue the course while recovering in a way that suited me. I am so happy I got this new chance of life from National Learning Network in Bray."

Wyvern Lyngo performed an acoustic version of one of their hits 'I Love You, Sadie' before presenting the students with their certificates.

Also in attendance



At the National Learning Network's certificate presentation night were Gavin Carroll and Pat O'Suilleabhain (Chamber President). Pic: Eric Ronan

were the Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District Cllr Pat Vance, Councillors Joe Behan, Dermot O'Brien, Brendan Thornhill and Oliver O'Brien, President of the Bray Chamber Pat O'Suilleabhain, representatives of the KWETB and the HSE, as well as many local organisations working in the health and education sectors. The

ceremony was also attended by Pauline Newnham, Director of Quality and Governance of the Rehab Group.

National Learning Network has been operating in Bray for over 15 years and is based in Beechwood Close, Boghall Road. They provide specialist training and education programmes for people who,

because of an accident, illness, a mental health setback or a disability, need extra support to move on to work or further education. They can be contacted on 01 282 9643. They also have an Open Morning every Wednesday between 11.00am and 1.00pm to give information about their training courses.

## South Wicklow Drama Festival

The 14th South Wicklow Drama Festival will take place in St. Brigid's Hall, Carnew from Friday 15th March to Saturday 23rd March.

The is a wonderful and varied line up of plays with groups from counties Wexford and Wicklow taking part along with drama groups from Cork and Armagh. The adjudicator will be Ailbhe Garvey Hughes.

The South Wicklow Drama Festival committee is delighted to welcome Ailbhe Garvey Hughes to adjudicate the 2019 Festival. Ailbhe has been involved in theatre for most of her life. A former All Ireland 'Best Actress' winner, she played with An Taibhdhearc (The Irish Language Theatre) and Druid Theatre Company in roles in "A Galway Girl", "Pursuit of Pleasure", "The Importance of Being Earnest", Sam Sheppard's "Action", and Ibsen's "A Doll's House" to name but a few. She has worked as a professional actor, director, adjudicator and teacher for over thirty years.

Patron tickets for the festival are available from any of the festival committee members, from Mark Kennedy in Hall's Shop, Main Street, Carnew; Carnew Training & Development Centre and from Candy's, Carnew. Purchasing a patron ticket enables you to see all nine of the following plays for just €45. "The standard of amateur drama throughout the country is very high and it is once again a privilege to bring quality performances to the stage in Carnew," said the committee.

### Line up of plays (nightly at 8pm except final night - 7.30pm start)

Friday 15th : Tinahely Variety Group - Eclipsed by Patricia Burke Brogan  
Saturday 16th: Wexford Drama Group - Rabbit Hole by David Lindsay-Abaire  
Sunday 17th: Skibbereen Theatre Society-The Beauty Queen of Leenane by Martin McDonagh  
Monday 18th: Gorey Little Theatre Group - Bloomsday by Steven Dietz  
Tuesday 19th: Kilmuckridge Drama Group - The Righteous are Bold by Frank Carney  
Wednesday 20th: Kilrush Drama Group - The Steward of Christendom by Sebastian Barry  
Thursday 21st: Bunclody/Kilmyshal Drama Group - Moonglow by Kim Carney  
Friday 22nd: Bridge Drama Group - Brighton Beach Memoirs by Neil Simon  
Saturday 23rd: Lislea Dramatic Players - Castles in the Air - by Martin Lynch

## An evening of habit breaking with Dr. Celine Mullins

Have you broken your new years resolution? Don't worry by now most of us have and have returned to our old habits. But what if we could quash these habits for good?



Dr. Celine Mullins

Network Ireland Wicklow presents Dr Celine Mullins, business psychologist, coach, facilitator, speaker and author, who will speak on the topic of habit breaking on Tuesday, 12th March from 7pm to 9:30pm at Crazy Glazing, Wicklow Town.

This will be a practical and interactive session exploring learning and habit change. All participants will be invited to consider one thing in their

lives that they would like to do more of/ less of, or differently.

Celine will take the group through the main messages and some useful exercises, from her series of books 'Maximising Brain Potential' published by Oak Tree Press to help everyone start creating change around this one item, and so that they can continue this process beyond the session and with other habit change they wish to make in the

future. Dr. Celine Mullins is the CEO and Founder of Adapta, a Leadership Development Training organisation, developing managers and leaders and teams, in Ireland and Internationally.

Valued members and visitors are welcome to our event. You can register on Eventbrite.ie via [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) or you can turn up on the night.

Visitors fee is 27.55.

## Season of home grown comedy at Delgany's Old Schoolhouse

Delgany Dramatic Society presents four short one-act plays and sketches written and directed by members for its Spring productions. All four are comedies: 'Pot or cup? That is the question' from the German translated by Claire Kristahn; 'Ermintrude' by Deirdre Leeson; 'Impatient - In-Patient', from the German translated by Claire Kristahn; and 'Game is a Foote?' by Peter Robbie.

They will be performed on Thursday, Friday and Saturday 28th, 29th and 30th March in the Old Schoolhouse, Delgany, at 8pm. Tickets at the door (€12 and €10 concessions). There will be a raffle and a wine reception.



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