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Tuesday 26th March 2019

5 Eglinton Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow

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www.wicklowtimes.net

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# APPEAL AGAINST DATA CENTRE

A third-party appeal has been lodged with An Bord Pleanála objecting to the proposed Data Centre at Avoca River Park in Arklow.

The objection was lodged on March 14th and argues among other things that the proposed data centre could potentially represent 6.6% of Ireland's national electricity grid and that over 300,000 homes could be supplied with the waste heat from the centre that is instead to be evaporated. The case is due to be decided on July 15th.

The development proposed by Crag Digital, now Echelon, involves the demolition of buildings and structures on site and construction of a Data Storage Facility comprising three data storage buildings and all associated site infrastruc-

ture. The development could create over 90 jobs.

The grounds of the appeal are; failure of the Local Authority to consider flood risk assessment, the environmental effects of greenhouse gas emissions and how Avoca River Park affects other local business.

The appeal maintains that the location, Avoca River Park, conflicts with two of the parameters for how data centres should be built as set out by the American TIA (Telecommunications Infrastructure Standard) assessment manual for data centres; that they should be built no further than 25 miles from an

international airport and that there should be no watercourse or river adjacent to the site.

With regards to the supposed flood risk of the site, the appeal refers to the OPW's CFRAM (Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management) report. The appeal states that "the vulnerability of the subject site is clearly shown as a Fluvial Critical Event (once in every 100 years) on the CFRAM map. The OPW report classifies the subject site as 3454 which puts it in the Critical Vulnerability Status." The appeal points out that "Future climate change is predict-



Melanie Corrigan (left) and Cllr Irene Winters (right) with Minister Paschal Donohoe and Minister Andrew Doyle at Minister Doyle's European Election fundraising lunch in The Glenview Hotel on Friday

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ed to reclassify the frequency of flooding on this site."

The site is protected from flooding by an earth berm built in the 1960s, however the appeal states that it "can be considered not fit for purpose in the protection of pluvial and indeed fluvial flood risk. Similar berms have recently been simply washed away by heavy rains such as experienced recently in Brazil."

The applicant has proposed to maintain the earth berm but the appeal argues the proposals are not adequate.

The application makes reference to four 50 mega volt amp bays, the equivalent of 200MW of energy. The appeal observes that that the EIAR (Environmental Impact Assessment Report) only refers to a suggested total of 60MW MIC

(Maximum Import Capacity).

Regarding the environmental effect of greenhouse gases, the appeal states "The Carbon Fines associated with this development is estimated to be approximately €80m per annum and without any effort to mitigate the Greenhouse Gas Effect of this development, this will equate to €1m per employee within the Centre."

The appeal argues that "the current application is considered premature" and should the Board grant the local authority's permission, this would be "a significant undermining of the already granted permission" by Wicklow County Council in 2010 to Ecolo Data Centres Ltd for a data centre in Mountkenedy Demesne.

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Daniel, Aidan, Rachel and Devin Murphy at the St. Patrick's Day parade in Bray

### What's Happening...

#### Wicklow parish car boot sale

Wicklow Parish will host car boot sales on the first Saturday of each month from April to September (except June). Save the dates! Saturday 6th April, 4th May, 6th July, 3rd August and 7th September. The sales will be held in East Glendalough School from 9am-2pm. If you are interested in taking a pitch, the cost is €10 per car, or €15 for a car with trailer or a van. Gates open at 7.30am. Tea, coffee and refreshments will be available and restroom facilities also. For more information, call Peter Earls (087 2706616) or Lesley Hopkins (087 6091945).

#### Pres Bray past pupil mass

The annual mass for the past pupils of Presentation College Bray is taking place in the college on Sunday 31st March at 11am. All past pupils and their families are welcome to attend. The mass will be celebrated by Past Pupil Fr. Eddie Creamer and light refreshments will be served afterwards.

#### Aughrim Ceile

Aughrim Set Dancers are having a charity cd ceilie in memory of Margarete with paddy and yvonne in Aughrim community hall (beside byrnes/londis) on Sunday 7th April 3-6pm. Admission (inc refreshments) is €10. all proceeds in aid of Wicklow Hospice. There will be a raffle on the evening. Dancers and non dancers are all welcome for a great evening.

#### Bone Machine play the Music of Tom Waits

Bone Machine will play the music of Tom Waits in the Hot Spot Music Club above the Beach House at Greystones Harbour Marina on 29th March. Bone Machine captures the character and musical genius of Tom Waits. This is an exhilarating performance that has been playing to packed houses. Bone Machine are a band of internationally renowned touring and recording musicians. They perform a firebrand, melancholic and punk jazz set of Tom Waits songs. Doors open at 8pm. Show at 9pm. Tickets €10/€12. Booking at the Hot Spot during opening hours or call 087 2917519 to book with credit card. Full details from [www.thehotspot.ie](http://www.thehotspot.ie).

#### Holy Rosary's soup and sandwiches lunch

A lunch of soup and sandwiches will be served in Kilian House Family Centre on 27th March from 12:15 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Meet your friends for delicious home-made soup and sandwiches, followed by tea/coffee and cake. Suggested donation is €5. All proceeds go to local charities. Everyone is most welcome for good food and a friendly chat.

## Get involved for Alzheimer's Tea Day

**Alzheimer's Tea Day, the Alzheimer Society of Ireland's (ASI) largest annual fundraising campaign, was launched last week in The Maryborough House Hotel, Cork. It takes place on Thursday 2nd May. The ASI aims to raise €500,000 to provide supports and services to help families living with dementia nationwide.**

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of Alzheimer's Tea Day. The inaugural Alzheimer's Tea Day took place in 1994. The Tea Day campaign provides vital funds for truly important services, which include: nationwide day care centres, respite, home care, social clubs, carer support groups, Alzheimer cafés and the busy National Helpline.

Every year, thousands of people around the country get involved with local Tea Day events in their homes, workplaces, schools, local community centres, parishes or somewhere special. The ASI is asking people to invite their friends, family, colleagues and neighbours to have a cuppa, a chat and maybe a treat or two.

Get involved and host a tea party by visiting [www.teaday.ie](http://www.teaday.ie) and simply

register your details to receive a Tea Day pack - the pack includes an A3 poster, an invitation book, a collection box, 5 books of raffle tickets, a bank giro and fun tips on hosting a Tea Day event. Registration deadline is Friday, 26th April. Last year there were 1,200 Tea Day hosts and this year the Charity is looking to double that number.

It is estimated that there are 1,274 people living with dementia in Wicklow and for every one person with dementia three others are directly affected. The number of people with dementia is expected to more than double over the next 20 years to 2,548 in 2039.

For more information, to get involved or to register for an Alzheimer's Tea Day pack, visit [www.teaday.ie](http://www.teaday.ie) or call (01) 207 3833.

**TD Auction Room**  
**WE ARE LOOKING FOR ITEMS FOR AUCTION!**  
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## From New York Fashion Week to Newtownmountkennedy

The world famous designer Kaffe Fassett shared his inspiration in a lecture to over 80 people in the Parkview Hotel recently.

He was welcomed to Wicklow by Marie O'Mahoney, Caitriona O'Mahoney and Sinead Byrne of Apple Tree Crafts Quilt Shop, who hosted and organised the rare event.

Kaffe Fassett, who is a Turner medal winner and a world famous designer, passed on his knowledge

of colour and gave insights into how he creates the glorious large bright designs that made him famous during the lecture and 2 subsequent workshops.

Kaffe teaches individuals all over the world to learn to work with colour in an instinctive way. His unique sense of colour,

drive to create, and his desire to encourage others, has led to his reputation as a guru in the world of colour and textiles. This once in a lifetime opportunity for fans of fashion, design, textiles and colour to meet a modern icon.

Kaffe is the first living artist to have been hon-

oured with a permanent exhibit in the world famous V&A museum in London. His unique garments have been commissioned and collected by many famous fashion icons and he has worked with British Vogue, Missoni and David Bailey.

## 'Back to the Future' at Bray Credit Union

Bray Credit Union is 55 years old and they have compiled a wonderful exhibition called 'Back to the Future,' which looks at how the movement began in Bray and globally, and how in 55 years, the local membership, amazing volunteers and hard work has made Bray Credit Union one of the top credit unions in Ireland today.

The historians at 'Bray, Did you Know?' are on board with interesting local facts and photos.

Live from Monday 8th April - Thursday 11th April from 10am - 3pm daily at Bray Town Hall. All are welcome especially primary and secondary schools. please email: [info@braycu.ie](mailto:info@braycu.ie) to book in your class.

Bray Credit Union are also running a competition for all Primary & Secondary schools to write an essay or artwork on the subject of 'How will Bray Credit Union do business in 2070'.

All artwork and essays will also be on display at Bray Town Hall. 1st Prize: €500, 2nd Prize: €350 3rd Prize: €250. Closing date: Monday 1st April. For more info see [www.braycu.ie](http://www.braycu.ie)

## Darkness into Light Wicklow Town

On Saturday May 11th, hundreds of thousands of people around the world will get together to walk and run from the darkness of night into the light of morning to help in the global fight against suicide and self-harm.

The people of Wicklow town and surrounding area will play a very important part of this annual event.

As people meet and chat in the early hours of May 11th, it sparks conversation about the importance of mental health and wellbeing in all our lives. The entry fees raised will allow Pieta House to continue to deliver vital services. The staff in Pieta House provides a free, therapeutic approach to people who are in suicidal distress and those who engage in self-harm.

Last year 1,552 people Wicklow Town took part in the event and raised €49,821 to support vital services.

Register now at [darknessintolight.ie](http://darknessintolight.ie) and avail of Early Bird Prices which ends on March 31st. Adult (18+) €20.00; Student (18+) €15.00; Job-seeker €15.00; Senior (65+) 15.00; Child (6-17 yrs) €5.00; Child (0-5 yrs) Free.



Pictured: Maria Curtis and Zoe Woodward at the coffee morning in the Pigeon House, Delgany, to mark Seachtain na Gailge. The event was organised by Delgany Community Council.

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# 24/7 GP SERVICE OPENS NEXT WEEK FOR NORTH WICKLOW

North East Wicklow GPs have joined together to form a local co-operative (NEW Doc) to provide an extended urgent GP care service at nights and weekends. The new service will open in April.

The service will be provided by local GPs and will cover the Bray, Greystones, and Enniskerry areas. The service will open from 6pm through to 8am from Monday to Friday and for 24 hours a day at weekends and bank holidays.

Dr. Marie Hogan, GP and Medical Director for the new service said "Whenever our daytime surgeries are closed, local GPs will be providing urgent care for the local community, including our most vulnerable patients in the younger and older age groups who traditionally have more urgent care needs."

The service is a collaborative project between the local GP Co-op NEW Doc and Northdoc Medical Services and will operate as 'E Doc GP Urgent Care'.

The service will be appointment based and will operate from St. Columcille's Hospital in Loughlinstown. There will also be a mobile unit providing urgent home visits.

Speaking as he made the announcement, Minister Simon Harris said "I am really delighted that we are now looking forward to

the opening of our long sought Out of Hours Service. The service will operate out of St Columcille's Hospital in Loughlinstown and serve the whole North Wicklow community. I have worked to secure this much needed service for the area for a number of years now and I was lucky to work with an incredibly dedicated cohort of local GPs to deliver this service. I want to thank our GP community for their hard work and commitment to the plan. I know they are really looking forward to working in one of the most advanced and well organised Out of Hours Services in the country."

Minister Harris advised that the service is expected to start in April: "I secured funding for the development of this service in the HSE Service Plan 2018 and I am really pleased that this service is now about to open. The new Treatment Centre at St Columcille's is expected to open on 2nd April. The HSE will be running a communications campaign to inform local people about the new service in advance of that date."

"I am so pleased that

we are now at such an advanced stage in the delivery of this vital service - with over 150 GPs signed up to service North Wicklow and South Dublin already in receipt of their work rota and preparing to get started. Northdoc, who won the tender for this service, have engaged in an extensive recruitment campaign for nursing, administrative and call taking staff and they are now preparing to do final tests on their ICT before opening the service. We in North Wicklow have waited for so long to get this important service and I am really looking forward to officially opening it in the next month. I will keep constituents updated as final details for the service are confirmed".

John Brady TD has welcomed the progress that has been made in the establishment of a general practitioner out-of-hours service for North Wicklow and said he's delighted that it will finally become live in April.

He said "Up to 150 GPs have signed up to service the area of North Wicklow and South Dublin that Northdoc will cover.

"I'm further advised that vehicles necessary for the provision of domiciliary visits have been ordered, treatment centres are ready for use and IT and telecoms systems have been installed and tested."

Brady concluded "Until now people in areas such as Bray, Greystones, Enniskerry and Kilmacanogue have had a private arrangement that was put in place by a number of GPs, in reality it didn't work and I've been informed that at the weekend GPs from England were flying in to provide cover."

Greystones Sinn Féin councillor Nicola Lawless said "This service is long overdue and when rolled out will bring an end to the current disgraceful situation where people are left waiting many hours and in some cases days to see a GP. This is a critical part of Primary Care and will also ensure that people will no longer, out of sheer desperation be forced to go to overcrowded A&E's to see a doctor."



Pictured: Molly and Tom O'Neill at the Wicklow Town St. Patrick's Day Parade.

## Appeal against data centre

Continued from Page 1

Responding to the appeal, Pat Casey TD said "It is vital that this appeal is dealt with in a prompt manner as in my view this development is a perfect fit for the industrial site at IFI and a massive boost to the Arklow region. They know that Data Centres are classed as critical infrastructure so this appeal must be dealt within the time frame proposed."

"This is the largest investment in industry in Wicklow in generations and I am determined that this project

gets off the ground. The Data Centre alone is a game changer for the South Wicklow region but Echelon have exciting plans for this iconic site.

"I have been working on this project with Crag Digital now Echelon for the past 17 months. The initial investment is over €500 million and will transform this brown field site into a major data centre with 100 mega watts of capacity in phase 1 which will in turn attract industries in the valuable technology and software sectors."

"Apart from the 450 construction jobs that

will be needed for the substantial redevelopment of the site, the data centre will in turn initially employ 90 high skilled workers and will in the future become a hub for a business park which is the model that US data centres have evolved into. Tech companies prefer to locate adjacent to these data centres and therefore the potential for not only Arklow but the South Wicklow region is very exciting."

"This development by Echelon is the beginning of a new era of industrial development and jobs

for Arklow and I am delighted to have been of assistance in getting this project to this crucial state. I will continue to work closely with this company, the IDA and Wicklow County Council to ensure that this project proceeds to construction."

"Wicklow based employment is one of my main priorities and I am determined to see this project benefit jobs and commercial activity not just in Arklow but the entire South Wicklow region."



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Kerrie, Susan, Michael Anthony and Aoibheann O'Neill at the Gleanealy Hurling Club dinner dance in the Parkview Hotel in Newtownmountkennedy.

## MAJOR MILESTONE IN DEVELOPMENT OF HOSPICE AS FUNDING ALLOCATED

Minister for Health, Simon Harris TD has confirmed that the funding to operate the Wicklow Hospice has now been allocated and the development is progressing well.

Minister Harris last week confirmed that the revenue funding, the funding to operate the hospice, has now been put in place to allow the Hospice begin working.

Minister Harris said: "The people of Co Wicklow have worked very hard to fundraise and support efforts to build a purpose built hospice in our county for many years. It was an honour to officially turn the sod of the Wicklow Hospice build in 2018 and I have visited the site on a number of occasions since to discuss progress. I am pleased to confirm that we are on target to open by the end of this year as planned.

"I was really pleased to work with the Wicklow Hospice Foundation to secure an extra €1.25 million in capital funding from my Department to allow the build to get under way and I am really pleased that this is now progressing well. I am delighted to now confirm that the necessary revenue funding has been put in place to allow the hospice to start working. Putting the funding in place now is key to ensuring the hospice as a whole is ready to open when the building work is complete."

## Housing supply 'mismatch'

Concerns regarding a mismatch in housing supply and housing demand in Co. Wicklow have been highlighted in a new report.

Initiative Ireland last week released its annual housing report, entitled 'Housing 2019'. The report provides a performance review on the supply of houses across the country and builds on the company's inaugural report published last year.

The Housing 2019 report provides an overview of housing supply volumes by region compared to Initiative Ireland's demand forecasts, which it has modelled based on population growth, employment and other data sources over the last 25 years. On a pure numeric basis, the Greater Dublin Area (comprising of Dublin, Wicklow, Meath and Kildare) appears to perform best achieving 60% of demand volume but when assessed for affordability of supply it performed worst nationwide.

By comparison the Midland Region (comprised of Laois, Longford, Offaly and Westmeath) only delivered 30% of New Housing Demand but 80% of these homes were affordable by comparison.

Padraig W. Rushe, CEO, Initiative Ireland said "Half of all Irish housing demand will fall within the Greater Dublin Area by 2031. We should see significant investment in affordable housing in the region based on demand and yet because this is where the all-in cost of construction is highest, the minimum cost of delivering housing units is proving too close to or falling below the end purchase price. As a result, we see a focus on delivering housing to the upper-end of the market, which is far less sustainable and compounds rental pressures for lower-income families."

Housing 2019 also raises concerns that the Central Bank's 3.5x borrowing cap is disproportionately impacting lower-income families in the Greater Dublin Area, locking them out of ownership and into higher cost rents and/or social housing alternatives.

While purchasing power is limited Housing 2019 shows that most households can afford to borrow and service larger mortgages at lower cost

relative to rents and without committing more than 25% of their monthly income to rent/mortgage payments. As such, it suggests a more nuanced, staged borrowing model would better serve to stimulate the production of affordable housing and provide more security of tenure and reduce monthly outgoings for lower income families.

Padraig W. Rushe, concluded, "The 3.5x rule was designed to avoid over-heating of the market but it is proving too blunt an instrument, locking lower income houses into the rental market too soon in the cycle. It also fails to factor in cost of credit, whether a mortgage is fixed or variable, the rate, the monthly cost and the underlying liquidity of the home and location. A more considered approach is needed which focuses on giving lower income families access to the ownership market recognising that the alternative costs these families more and only results in an overheating of the rental market."

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# PROGRESS REPORT ON CO. WICKLOW FOSTER CARE SERVICES

A 2017 HIQA inspection of Tusla foster care services in Wicklow found there to be 'major non-compliance' in the area of reviews.

A report published earlier this month examined the progress made by Tusla in reaching compliance with eight of the National Standards for Foster Care. There were 229 children in foster care in the Wicklow/Dublin South East region in 2018.

The 2017 thematic inspection found that "reviews were not carried out in line with regulations and standards (the National Standards for Foster Care requires that foster carers participate in a review within a year of first placement and thereafter at three yearly intervals). Of the 223 foster carers, 188 or 84% had not been reviewed for over three years and some had not been reviewed since their approval as foster carers."

An action plan to address this was submitted and in the 2018 follow-up inspectors found

that the Wicklow/Dublin South East area had made progress in relation to this standard. Data indicated that the area had completed 65 reviews since April 2017 (18 months since the previous inspection). However, 77 (31%) of foster carers still had not had a review in the last three years.

"The area manager told inspectors that foster carer reviews had been prioritised based on the criteria identified, for example, where there had been an allegation or serious welfare concern against a foster carer," the report states.

"Despite this significant backlog of reviews, in 2018, the statement of progress completed by the Dublin South East/Wicklow service area judged its compliance with this standard as being 'moderate non-compliant' which, following the inspection, the

inspectors did not agree with; as insufficient progress had been made to increase the compliance rating. The area manager provided inspectors with an updated plan indicating that the outstanding 77 reviews would be completed by April 2019.

"The area manager told inspectors that adequate staffing resources were not in place to complete the outstanding reviews. An additional post of a reviewing officer team leader post was created but could not be filled. As a result, the area had employed a sessional agency worker two days a week to assist with chairing reviews."

The 2017 inspection also found that Wicklow/Dublin South East did not have a training strategy in place for foster carers and had not completed a comprehensive training needs analysis of foster carers.

The report states "The area struggled to ensure that foster carers attended on-going training and foster carers training records were not well maintained. In addition, the Dublin South East/Wicklow service area did not have a structured training programme in place for foster carers."

The 2018 follow-up inspection found that the area had made significant improvements in relation to training. The area had completed a training needs analysis following the 2017 inspection and had developed a comprehensive training strategy. In addition the area had implemented a structured programme of training for all foster carers covering subjects that were relevant to foster carers. Two administrators maintained a tracking system that recorded invitations sent out to foster carers, responses and training attendance lists.

## Rural Wicklow 'most difficult place in Ireland to build a home'

Fianna Fáil candidate for the Baltinglass Municipal District, John Mullen addressed delegates at the Party's Ard Fheis on the difficulties being faced by rural people seeking to build a home in Wicklow.

"Rural Wicklow is probably the most difficult place in Ireland to secure planning permission to build a home. Most gardens have a house attached to it, but in the Garden of Ireland this is not the case, all garden - few local home," said Mr Mullen.

"The financial cost and frustration inflicted on hard working people in rural Wicklow as they try and navigate the fog and inconsistencies involved in the planning process. This is increasing to unacceptable levels.

"For most people in rural Wicklow, making the decision to build a home in your own community is a deeply personal, permanent, and passionate commitment to our rural way of life. How can rural Ireland, survive, never mind thrive, unless people are allowed to live there? Rural Wicklow is not only a spectacular landscape, for day trippers and coach tours, it is a living environment for families who have formed and protected that landscape over many generations.

"For me, West Wicklow is my home. Local Government must be empowered and staffed to help people secure appropriate planning permission.

However Government policies have resulted in the Council being regarded as the largest obstacle to building a home.

"Qualifications, sight-lines, design, drainage, visual impact, percolation tests, change of use, are all terms and processes that are important but these need to be explained upfront in jargon-free language before they waste hard earned money on a planning application that is doomed to fail.

"Pat Casey TD has drafted a bill to make it easier for people to engage with planners in the crucial early stages of the planning permission process. Currently in Wicklow it is impossible to meet with a planner for a pre-consultation meeting. Under this bill, planners would be obliged to meet face to face with those seeking planning permission within a set time period."

## Spate of break-ins

There was a spree of break-ins around north Wicklow during St Patrick's weekend with a dark coloured Audi linked to the crime spree.

Bizarrely, a similar car was involved in a spree around the county during the same weekend in 2018. Gardai are asking for anybody with any information to contact them. The car is described as being a black or dark coloured Audi, possibly a 07D registration, usually with three males on board. Their tactic appears to be that the driver will remain in the vehicle after dropping the other two males to an area.

The two males on foot will check out and burgle or attempt to burgle properties before being picked up by the driver. Reports describe the men as being one thin man with short red hair and a second bigger man wearing a cap and glasses. Both men were in track suits and wearing yellow gloves. Areas burgled that were reported on the 'Wicklow Alerts' Facebook page include Moneytown and Mullinaveige in the Roundwood area and Shankill. Attempted burglaries also took place in Old Conna Wood in Bray and Eagle Valley in Enniskerry.

Further sightings of a similar vehicle acting suspiciously were reported in Eden Gate in Delgany and Callowhill. Anybody who sees occupants of a similar vehicle acting in a suspicious manner is asked to contact the Gardai.



Pictured: Tommy and Bernie Doyle at the Gleanealy Hurling Club dinner dance in the Parkview Hotel in Newtownmountkennedy.

## Wicklow Mountains Challenge

Registration for the Wicklow Mountains Challenge has now closed but you can still donate.

The event is to raise money for Debra Ireland and it will be held in the Brockagh Resource Centre, Laragh. If you have missed the registration you can still donate to a this worthy cause or keep a close watch on details of next year's event. You can email [info@debraireland.ie](mailto:info@debraireland.ie)

## Aughrim and District Active Retirement

The following are events offered for people who are retired in the Aughrim area who wish to stay active.

Chair yoga continues on Tuesday at 10.30am. The group continue to meet at Phelan's every Monday at 10.30am for a short walk followed by coffee in Lawless's Hotel. Everyone is welcome to join them. There will be a trip to the National Concert Hall for the R & R Music Society's 'Music from the Musicals' on Saturday 13th April.



## WHY ISN'T THE GOVERNMENT DOING ANYTHING ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE?

### PUBLIC DISCUSSION

## Guest Speaker: Sean Sherlock TD

Member of Oireachtas Committee on Climate Change  
Labour Spokesperson on Climate Change

Tuesday, 2nd April at 7.30pm in the Martello Function Room

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### Contact your Labour Representatives as follows:

- Anne Ferris, Bray East Electoral Area 086-2364780 / [anneferris7@gmail.com](mailto:anneferris7@gmail.com)
- Ian McGahon, Bray West Electoral Area 086-3848509 / [ian.mcgahon@votelabour.ie](mailto:ian.mcgahon@votelabour.ie)
- Paul O'Brien, Wicklow Electoral Area 086-0366947 / [paulobrien78@yahoo.com](mailto:paulobrien78@yahoo.com)
- Sheila Nunan, Euro Candidate for Ireland South 086-8137858 / [sheilanunan@gmail.com](mailto:sheilanunan@gmail.com)
- Jack O'Connor, Dáil Candidate 087-2597454 / [jackoconnorwicklow@gmail.com](mailto:jackoconnorwicklow@gmail.com)

  
Labour





Sisters Julie, Paula and Pamela Mulligan from Roscommon share the same Kidney condition. They are now all living in Wicklow and are raising awareness about organ donation.

## Signal Arts Society 19th Annual Members Exhibition

Signal Arts Centre in Bray will present the 19th Annual Exhibition of works by members of the Signal Arts Society from Monday 1st April to Sunday 14th April.

This exhibition is a showcase for members of the Signal Arts Society and, being a group show, includes a diverse range of content, a varied selection of mediums and always something to delight even the most discerning of palettes.

The Signal Arts Society was launched in 2001 and is affiliated with Signal Arts Centre. The Society consists of artists working in many different arts practices, however membership is not exclusive to artists - anybody with an interest in the arts can join.

The Society offers a range of facilities and discounts to members. For more information on Signal Arts Society go to [www.signalartscentre.ie](http://www.signalartscentre.ie) and click on the Society's tab. Alternatively the Society may be contacted through Signal Arts Centre.

# Sisters sharing kidney condition raising organ donor awareness

Organ Donor Awareness Week takes place from March 30th to April 6th, and the siblings of one family know all about the importance of it.

Susan Mulligan from Castlereagh, Co Roscommon and now living Islandbridge in Dublin was diagnosed with Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) when she was in college after she sustained a sports injury. For over two and a half years she has been undergoing haemodialysis treatment at the Beacon in Tallaght.

Four out of six siblings in Susan's family have been diagnosed with PKD which is a progressive illness which can remain dormant for decades. Their father, Michael Mulligan, now aged 70, underwent a deceased donor kidney transplant 14 years ago. His transplant continues to be successful as he enjoys his senior years with his wife Breege in their native Castlereagh, Co Roscommon. Three of Susan's sisters, Pamela, Julie and Paula, live in Wicklow less than 15 minutes drive from one another (in Aughrim, Avoca and Arklow). Their three husbands had been friends since before marriage. Susan's sister Julie, who lives in Aughrim in

Wicklow, went into end stage kidney failure following the birth of her son two years ago. Julie's declining kidney function is being carefully monitored and she may need to commence dialysis treatment soon and is awaiting her appointment to visit the renal team at Beaumont Hospital for referral onto the transplant waiting pool.

Following Susan's diagnosis she managed to stave off dialysis treatment for over a decade as her condition was carefully monitored and treated through medication as well as lifestyle and dietary changes.

Pamela and Julie completed their PKD tests for a medical report which was required for their mortgage applications. Fortunately for Pamela, who lives in Arklow with her husband Neil and three sons, her tests came back negative for PKD. However, another sister, Paula, who lives in Avoca and was diagnosed with the disease, had experienced a temporary dip in kidney function after the birth of her twin boys last year but her kidney func-

tion has since improved and her condition hasn't progressed.

The oldest sister in the Mulligan family, Lynda, also has received a PKD diagnosis but she continues to enjoy good health while living in Rahan, Co Offaly with her husband Nicky. The youngest member of the family and only brother, Mikki Mulligan, lives in Canada and has not been tested yet for PKD.

Susan and her family are grateful to the family of their father's deceased donor transplant and are eager share their story to support the annual Organ Donor Awareness Week which aims to raise awareness about organ failure and encourage the public to support organ donation for transplantation and tell their next-of-kind their wishes.

Susan said, "My family are truly grateful to the donor family who gave my father a new lease of life. For the other members of our family who will need organ transplants in the future and for all those other people on transplant waiting lists, we are sharing our story

to help raise awareness about how vitally important organ donation is".

Throughout Organ Donor Awareness Week, the Association's volunteers will be out on the streets, and in shopping centres throughout the country, distributing organ donor cards while selling 'forget-me-not-flower' emblems, brooches, pens and shopping trolley discs. All proceeds go towards the Irish Kidney Association's aid for patients on dialysis and those patients fortunate enough to have received a kidney transplant.

Information fact files, which accompany the free organ donor cards, are obtainable from the Irish Kidney Association and are available nationwide from pharmacies, GP surgeries and post offices.

Organ Donor Cards can also be obtained by phoning the Irish Kidney Association tel. 01 6205306 or Free text the word DONOR to 50050. Visit website [www.ika.ie/card](http://www.ika.ie/card). You can now download a free 'digital organ donor card' APP to your phone.

## Bray relay team strikes gold at the Leinster Championships

The Bray Runners A.C. U16 girls relay team claimed gold at the Leinster Indoor Relay championships earlier this month at the National Indoor Arena in Abbotstown County Dublin.

The quartet of Aoife Carter, Niamh Murray, Ciara Murray and Gráinne O'Sullivan won the final in a blistering time of 1:49 for the 4x200m from Dunboyne A.C. and Kilkenny City Harriers. Of particular note was Gráinne O'Sullivan's sensational final leg on which she gained about 25m on the lead runner to lift the team from 4th place at the bell to Leinster Gold at the line victory at the line.

The team had earlier run the fastest time in the heats and were amongst the favorites for victory. Perhaps this result won't come as a surprise to some, as three-quarters of this same team finished an impressive 5th place at the National Outdoor Relay Championships in 2017 and will now have another opportunity to make the national podium on 6th April at the AIT arena in Athlone.

Meanwhile, the Bray Runners U12 girls team of Catherine O'Neill, Kate Hanley, Krippa Kissanthomas, and Róisín Murray took victory in their heat in 2:10 and qualified outright for the final, where they finished sixth. Sixth place was also the final position for the Bray U14 boys team of Bobby More, Rian Anafi-Fitzgibbon, Fionn Begley and Matthew Daly, who benefitted from being in a

very fast heat to also qualify on time for their final.

Some of the Bray teams competing in the morning session also gained valuable experience in competing at Leinster championship events, including Imogen Stanley, Eva McCraith, Ella Maguire and Éile Kennedy in the girls' U13 event and Bobby More (who pulled double duty on the day), Con McCann, Charlie Geelon and James Foot.

Finally, the u15 girls' team saw a welcome return to competition for Genevieve Dowling alongside Jennifer O'Dwyer, Hannah Kelly and Eleanor Foot, with Hannah and Eleanor also acting as substitutes for the victorious u16 girls' team.

The next event coming up for the club is the National Indoor Track and Field Championships at the end of March.



The victorious Bray Runners U16 girls relay squad: Eleanor Foot, Gráinne O'Sullivan, Ciara Murray, Niamh Murray, Aoife Carter and Hannah Kelly.

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# HEALTHY WICKLOW STRATEGY

Health Minister Simon Harris has welcomed the launch of the Health Wicklow Strategy 2018-2021. Minister Harris established the Healthy Ireland Fund in 2017 to help drive the cross governmental approach as set out in the Healthy Ireland Framework to improve the mental and physical health and wellbeing of the population.

The 'Healthy Wicklow' initiative aims to improve the physical, mental health and wellbeing of the citizens of Wicklow. It is part of a Government project and was developed as a result of concerns raised about lifestyle trends and health inequalities that could lead to an unhealthy path to the future. The Healthy Wicklow Strategy was developed following consultations with communities across the County. It



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Pictured at the launch of the Healthy Wicklow strategy at County Buildings were Denise O'Shea, Siobhan Fitzpatrick, Andrew McBride, CEO of Wicklow County Council Frank Curran, Cathaoirleach of WCC Pat Vance, Cllr Grainne McLoughlin, Fionuala Curry, Brian Carty, Director of Services at WCC Michael Nicholson, Aisling Hubbard, and Anne Kavanagh.

has four goals, including: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life; Reduce health inequalities; Protect the public from threats to health and well being; Create an environment where every individual can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland.

Speaking as he welcomed the launch, Minister Harris said: "The launch of this Health Wicklow Strategy is really significant because it marks a further step in establishing a strong structure to support all the relevant people here in Wicklow to fully contribute to the implementation of Healthy Ireland."

"The development of this strategy has been multifaceted and I

would like to thank the members of the Local Community Development Committee, the Children's and Young Peoples Services Committee and the Local Sports Partnership who worked together in the development of this plan. Organisations and communities working together is the key to realising a Healthy Ireland."

Minister Harris continued "The launch of the Healthy Wicklow plan is a key step to Wicklow joining the Network and becoming a Healthy County. Healthy Ireland is about creating a unique plan that offers local answers to local needs." Actions in Wicklow under the Health

Ireland Fund run from Minister Harris' Department, include assisting those suffering with chronic conditions to access gyms with support from physiotherapists, physical activity sessions for people with disabilities, the purchase of an accessible wheelchair for the Local Sports Partnership, activity programmes in a number of housing estates, social prescribing, a Trails passport for our primary school children and a social based nutrition programme for people with dementia.

Cllr Grainne McLoughlin, Chairperson of the Wicklow LCDC, complimented the Wicklow CYPSC and the other implementing agencies that worked so hard on

delivering projects since the start of Healthy Ireland: "The Healthy Ireland programme is actually in its second year. In that time, we have invested over €200,000 in projects that have had a positive impact on a wide range of individuals and groups," she said highlighting activity camps taking place in housing estates, the development of a trails passport for use by children on walking routes in Wicklow and healthy food programmes that have been established. The Healthy Wicklow Strategy compliments the national policy - "Putting People First" - which states that "The ultimate purpose of local government is to promote well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities".



**Edward Whelan**  
FINE GAEL

Whelan4wicklow@gmail.com  
(087) 242 6378

**for Bray East**

I would ask for your support for Edward so he can represent us on Wicklow County Council and work closely with me to help get things done.

**VOTE NO 1**

## Wicklow Historical Society

Ken Hannigan, retired National Archives archivist and Wicklow Historical Society committee member, will be the guest speaker for the Society's Monday March 25th meeting at 8pm in the De La Salle Parish Centre, beside St. Patrick's Church, Wicklow, at which he will talk about "James Joyce and his Wicklow associates." This is the final talk in Wicklow Historical Society's current winter lecture series - all are welcome to attend.





Pictured at the St Patrick's Day parade in Greystones were Aileen and Richard Shortall with their children Poppy-Bella and Luna.

## Wicklow land prices sees highest fall in Ireland

Wicklow land prices fell 25% last year, from €12,060/ac to €9,073/ac, according to the Irish Farmers Journal's 12th annual Agricultural Land Price Report, published last Thursday.

No county in Ireland saw a bigger price decrease last year than Co. Wicklow, and Wicklow also had one of the greatest spreads of buyers in 2018, with beef the only enterprise attributed to over 20% of sales. Business people and forestry accounted for almost 9% of land transactions in 2018.

Nationally, the average price of land was €9,072/ac in 2018, down just 0.18% on 2017.

The report provides a comprehensive breakdown of agricultural land prices in each county. The information contained in this report is taken from all 32 counties and provides a realistic price comparison across the entire country on a county-by-county basis.

The Irish Farmers Journal's Agricultural Land Price Report is based on 1,662 farms/land parcels put on the market by private treaty, public auction and tender throughout the country in 2018.

These farms amount to 70,246ac offered for sale and comprised a mix of tillage land, grazing ground, hill land and commonage. The 870 completed transactions represent an increase from the number of transactions recorded in 2017 (768) and 2016 (804). Last year's transactions amount to 31,687ac recorded as sold (45.1% of total land offered) and were used to calculate the national average of €9,072/ac.



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## 'The boy who refused to let the family holiday magic end'

Passersby may have wondered why a brass band from the Bray St. Patrick's Day parade had apparently taken a detour to play outside a house in Roselawn Park on the Boghall Road.

During this year's St Patrick's Day parades, the people of Bray and Greystones will have heard a rendition of the popular tune 'Sussex by the Sea', normally associated with the South East coast of England. It was performed by the prize-winning Boomerang Band from Rochdale in Manchester, so named as they keep returning to Bray every year for the St Patrick's Day festival. But why?

Paddy Murphy first went to Hastings, Sussex, as a young boy in the 1940s with his parents to visit his father's half sister May Holmes nee Keeley (daughter of the proprietor of a famous travelling circus Joe Keeley).

The Murphy's travelled to Hastings every year to visit May and her husband Geoffrey, an ex-Military man. Paddy's love of the Sussex coast was enhanced by the sound of the many Military and Brass & Reed bands that performed on the bandstands there. These magical times started a life-long bond with this area that lasted over 70 years. Paddy promoted these links with immense energy for the rest of his life.

Paddy passed away on April 22nd 2018 at his home in Roselawn Park. He had built up a great friendship with a band leader, Fred Bowker, who was associated with groups from Rochdale including the touring group known as the Boomerang Band. Paddy would organise venues and accommodation in the Bray area, thanks to many kind friends around Bray, when the Boomerang band were in town. Paddy's health sadly deteriorated in 2016 and he knew the show was coming to an end.

On St. Patrick's Day 2018 Paddy was devastated by the fact that his health wasn't good enough to meet with the band on the Seafront. "Well, if you can't go to see the



The Boomerang Band perform outside Paddy's home on St Patrick's day



A postcard from Paddy from a trip to Hastings in 1949

band, the band will come to you" was the Boomerang Band's response. Paddy shed a tear as the doorbell rang that morning at 10:30am and he was greeted with the Boomerang Band at his front gate as they played a few tunes especially for him.

The band returned on St Patrick's Day 2019 and repeated their special mark of respect to Paddy by playing his special tune 'Sussex by the Sea' outside his gate. This was followed up with a widely advertised concert in the Martello on the Monday afternoon. Paddy's family and friends were treated to a splendid concert given by the Boomerang band.

Paddy's desire to share his wonderful holiday experiences resulted in endless visits to Sussex with his friends and acquaintances. He was the first

Republic of Ireland branch secretary of SLADE (The Society of Lithographic Artists, Designers and Engravers), a British trade union representing workers in the printing industry. Paddy brought many of his friends and his future wife Patricia to Hastings, and in later years his own family. The tune 'Sussex by the Sea' was a reoccurring theme throughout his life.

Paddy's love of the magic of the south England seaside resort resulted in him trying to recreate the magic back here in Bray. Paddy was a founding member of the Bray Seaside Festival back in the early 1980s along with the late Fr Tony Deane (Holy Redeemer, Bray) and a number of well known characters in the Bray area.

Paddy's love of Sussex was soon to

manifest itself when he set up the Bray International Festival of Dance and Music with his friend, the Historian Frank Loughrey and some others. This resulted in the uncommon sight in Bray at the time of Morris dancers from the Sussex area and other parts of the UK as well as dance groups from around the world.

Paddy's name is associated with lots of festivals including the Bray Churches Together and the Anglesey oyster festival in Wales. He was responsible for organising youth orchestras, choirs, bands and dance group from all over the world to perform in schools, churches and venues in Bray and surrounding areas. Paddy was also instrumental in bringing a number of youth groups, bands as well as dancers to Sussex to perform in some fantastic locations.





Pictured at the St Patrick's Day parade in Newtownmountkennedy is Bernie O'Toole with her grandson Scott.

# Wicklow hotels feel Brexit effect

**Business sentiment amongst hotels and guesthouses in Wicklow has deteriorated sharply year on year, representing a stark change in outlook compared with 2018 according to the Irish Hotels Federation (IHF).**

An industry survey undertaken by the IHF ahead of its annual conference in the Gleneagle Hotel & INEC, Killarney, Co Kerry, reveals that only 40% of hoteliers nationally now have a positive outlook for their business over the next 12 months. This compares with 79% who reported a positive outlook at the start of 2018.

Major concerns for the sector include the continued risk of a disruptive Brexit and reduced competitiveness due to the hike in tourism VAT, increases in the cost of doing business and growing economic uncertainty internationally. In particular, the higher VAT rate is putting investment in additional hotel capacity at risk, with 75% of hoteliers stating they are now reassessing plans to increase capital investment as a result of the increase.

Performance so far this year has been mixed, with 39% of hoteliers across the country reporting a drop in overall business

levels compared to this time last year while 48% report an increase. This has largely been driven by growth from North America and Europe, which is masking continued poor performance of the UK market. Almost two thirds of hoteliers (65%) say advance bookings for 2019 from the Great Britain are down while almost six in ten (57%) are seeing a fall in advance bookings from Northern Ireland.

With the vast majority of hoteliers (91%) concerned about the impact Brexit will have on their business over the next 12 months, Brian McNamara, Chair of the Wicklow branch of the Irish Hotels Federation says growth in recent years cannot be taken for granted. "With the prospect of a disruptive Brexit looming, the sharp fall in business sentiment amongst hoteliers is not surprising. Our fear is that regional tourism businesses risk being hardest hit, especially those operating in areas that

are heavily reliant on seasonal and UK markets."

Tourism currently supports 13,900 jobs in Wicklow and contributes some €174m to the local economy annually.

Mr McNamara states: "Tourism plays a vitally important role as an engine of growth and regional economic balance. However, this could be put at risk if the Government does not take decisive action to mitigate the impact of Brexit and address the other serious challenges we now face such as the high cost of doing business in Ireland."

"Tourism is an exceptionally competitive activity. We compete daily for business at both a domestic and international level and every tourism Euro spent by overseas and domestic tourists in Ireland is hard won. Maintaining our competitiveness is absolutely vital to sustaining the growth of the industry, which supports jobs in every country and town."

"With 70 per cent of tourism jobs based outside of Dublin, tourism's wide geographic distribution is critical to sustaining regional economies, and addressing the rural imbalance. And, as the biggest investor in Irish tourism, the hotels sector is playing a critical role. Hotels and guesthouses not only provide local employment opportunities, we buy local services, source locally produced food and provide a vital infrastructure in support of local business and communities," he added.

Welcoming the Government's commitment last year to introduce a Tourism Satellite Account within the Central Statistics Office (CSO), McNamara called for it to be implemented as a priority. "This account will provide a full analysis of the economic activity in the tourism industry and show how much it contributes to each county throughout the country to inform future taxation and economic policy," he said.

## BUS CONNECTS

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BusConnects is a major investment programme to improve public transport in Dublin. It aims to overhaul the current bus system through a 10 year integrated programme of integrated actions to deliver a more efficient, reliable and better bus system for more people.

The core bus corridor project aims to deliver 230kms of dedicated bus lanes and 200kms of cycle tracks along 16 of the busiest corridors in Dublin. The National Transport Authority has commenced a public consultation in relation to these proposals.

### Community Forum

The NTA is fully committed to working with all interested parties in the development of the Core Bus Corridors project. We want to keep everyone on the proposed bus corridors fully in the picture at all times.

As such, we have established a Community Forum for each corridor.

**Phase 3** Public Consultation has commenced and we are calling for a single representative from **resident** and **community associations, disability** and **special interest groups** and **business organisations** on the corridors, along with public representatives. As places are limited, only one representative per group can be accepted.

The aim is to create two-way communication with local communities allowing information and feedback to be relayed clearly, quickly and accurately.

**Ballymun to City Centre, Finglas to Phibsborough, Bray to City Centre, UCD Ballsbridge to City Centre, Blackrock to Merrion, Ringsend to City Centre**

If you would like to nominate a representative for the phase 3 corridors above, please let us know by emailing [cbc@busconnects.ie](mailto:cbc@busconnects.ie)

The Public Consultation for Phase 1 concludes Friday 29th March 2019. Phase 2 will run until Tuesday 30th April 2019. Phase 3, the 6 corridors listed above has commenced and will conclude Friday 31st May 2019.

### General Information

Public Consultation is now live for these six corridors and will conclude Friday 31st May 2019.

Written submissions and observations on the **six corridors** may be made:

#### Online:

Through the online form in the "Public Consultation" section of the Core Bus Corridor page on the website [www.busconnects.ie](http://www.busconnects.ie)

#### By email to:

[cbc@busconnects.ie](mailto:cbc@busconnects.ie)

#### By Post to:

Core Bus Corridor Project  
National Transport Authority  
Dun Sceine  
Harcourt Lane  
Dublin 2  
D02 WT20

Public Consultation information events - a series of public consultation meetings have commenced in venues along these six corridors. Details of these can be found on our website.

[www.busconnects.ie](http://www.busconnects.ie)  
[cbc@busconnects.ie](mailto:cbc@busconnects.ie)





# AISLING BEACOM

Gold and Bronze Medal Winner in The Special Olympics World Games

Wicklow is celebrating following swimmer Aisling Beacom's double medal win at the Special Olympics World Games last week.



Aisling displays one of her medals with her mum Pam at the Special Olympics World Games last week.



Aisling Beacom and Rukky Atiyota got a massive welcome home in Wicklow Town on Friday

The amazing achievements of Wicklow's athletes at the Games earned them a heroes' welcome when they returned on Friday.

Aisling (38), a native of Wicklow Town and member of the local Blue Dolphins Special Olympics Club (which she helped to establish) and Wicklow Swimming Club, secured a Bronze medal in the 1600m Open Water Swim for Team Ireland and Gold in the 800m Freestyle swim in the pool, smashing her personal best by 50 seconds.

The Special Olympics World Games took place in Abu Dhabi from March 14th to 21st.

Aisling was one of four Wicklow athletes

to compete at the World Games, along with Rukky Atiyota (18) from Delgany, who is also a member of the Blue Dolphins Special Olympics Club, who competed in Basketball; Paul

open water swim, Aisling described it as "unbelievable", adding that she felt brilliant and that she didn't know where all of her energy had come from. "Why couldn't I have that

Aisling has previously competed in several Special Olympics World Games, including Athens 2011, where she won a silver in the Open Water event and bronze in the

800m Freestyle.

The Blue Dolphins Special Olympics Club told *Wicklow Times* "We are extremely proud of our two Blue Dolphins athletes who represented

## The Special Olympics World Games took place in Abu Dhabi from March 14th to 21st.

Condren (30) from Bray who competed in Football and Padraig Reilly (37) from Hollywood, who represented Team Ireland in Tenpin Bowling.

Speaking after being cheered over the finish line in the

energy when I'm swimming on a Sunday or a Wednesday with Wicklow Swimming Club?" Aisling joked. Aisling's proud mum Pam hugged her afterwards and said that she swam the best race of her life.

## MINISTER FOR HEALTH SIMON HARRIS

Congratulations Aisling on your fantastic achievement of winning Bronze and Gold Medals

Contact me for advice, support or assistance on any matter  
Call the Bray office on 01 2813727

Email me at  
simon.harris@oireachtas.ie

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## Cllr. Irene WINTERS

T: 087 2443610

Well done Aisling on your amazing wins

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# AISLING BEACOM

Gold and Bronze Medal Winner in The Special Olympics World Games



Kay and Tony Ryan with Golden girl Aisling Beacom on her arrival back in Wicklow Town

Ireland at the Special Olympics World Games in Abu Dhabi. By merely qualifying for the games, Aisling and Rukky are shining examples of the talent to be found at Blue Dolphins and in Country Wicklow! We can't wait to celebrate their successes with them when they return to training!

Wicklow Swimming Club were also incredibly proud of Aisling's achievements in Abu Dhabi. Ruth from Wicklow Swimming Club told *Wicklow Times* that Aisling has been a member of the club since she was "knee high to a grasshopper", and had won many cups over the years with the club. "When Aisling puts her mind to it, she can

*"When Aisling puts her mind to it, she can do anything."*

do anything."

The Beacom family have had great involvement with the club over the years, with Aisling's mother Pam previously serving as President of the Club, and Ross Beacom serving as current Chairman. "Everyone at Wicklow Swimming Club was over the moon", Ruth said of Aisling's medal wins.

Last Friday, Aisling and Rukky each got a hero's welcome when they arrived back in

Wicklow Town, with a 'Welcome Home' event taking place in the Bridge Tavern.

There was success for other Wicklow athletes at The

Special Olympics World Games too as Paul Condren secured bronze as part of the men's football team: Also triumphant after several days of competition were Team Ireland's seven-a-side football team, who claimed the bronze medal after winning 7-2 against Estonia on Tuesday 19th March. Padraig Reilly, meanwhile, secured fourth place as part of the team event.

*Aisling and Rukky each got a hero's welcome when they arrived back in Wicklow Town*

Congratulations Aisling from all in

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Aisling Beacom and Rukky Atiyota from Blue Dolphins Special Olympics Club with athletes and coaches from Co. Wicklow who took part in the Special Olympics World Games; Graham Hillick, Padraig Reilly and Paul Condren. Pic: Sportsfile

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Sebastian, Darren, and Edward O'Rourke at the Wicklow Town St. Patrick's Day Parade.

## Book of condolence opened for victims of New Zealand attack

Wicklow County Council has opened an online Book of Condolence for people who wish to express their sympathy to the families and friends of the victims of the mosque shootings in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Members of the public are invited to sign the Book of condolence on line at [www.wicklow.ie/Living/Your-Council/Customer-Care/Books-of-Condolence](http://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Your-Council/Customer-Care/Books-of-Condolence).

Once closed, the Book will be delivered to the New Zealand Embassy in Dublin.

"On behalf of Wicklow County Council and the people of Wicklow, I wish to extend my deepest sympathies and condolences to the families and friends of those killed and injured. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this difficult time," said Cllr Pat Vance, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council.

Mr Frank Curran, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council said: "By opening this Book of Condolence, Wicklow County Council is giving the people of County Wicklow the opportunity to express solidarity with the people of New Zealand following this meaningless attack".

# Greystones United's world record attempt

Greystones Utd AFC is bidding to set a new world record for the most number of players taking part in a continuous match.

by Nick Bramhill

The Club has announced plans to host the ambitious event, which will involve hundreds of participants taking part in an uninterrupted 24-hour game of football.

The epic challenge - which has been launched as a fundraiser for a new clubhouse for the school-boy club would, if successful, break an official world-record for the highest number of players taking part in a game of 'small-sided football'.

The current world record for the most players in a non-stop five-a-side football match is 676, and was set almost seven years ago by UK-based Petts Wood F.C., when the home team defeated rivals 'South London Nomads' by a jaw-dropping score of 115-105.

However, chiefs of Greystones Utd AFC, one of the largest clubs in Ireland with 50 teams and nearly 1,000 active players, are optimistic about

setting an official world record.

Club spokesman Nicky McManus said: "It's quite a logistical challenge to organise, but we are very confident the world record attempt will be successful. We'd hope that between club members, families, friends and people within the locality, that we can get around 700 to 750 participants. But obviously the more we can get the better."

Guinness chiefs have given the green light to the record attempt, which will take place in June over at least 24 hours.

It has yet to be confirmed whether the match will be contested five-a-side or seven-a-side teams.

But the club has decided to record the mammoth soccer match, and send video evidence to Guinness world record chiefs, rather than using the more costly services of employing a live adju-

cator on the day.

And Guinness World record bosses have already imposed strict conditions on the event, which include a stipulation that the 'roll-on, roll-off' game cannot stop at all, and that each player must be on the pitch for at least 15 minutes and touch the ball a certain number of times, before being replaced.

McManus said: "It's going to be a fantastic event, and it's already started to capture people's imaginations around here. It's open to everyone, and the more people who take part, then the better the record will be."

"It's going to be particularly exciting for the youngsters round here to come along. They'll love it when they play under the floodlights."

The club is actively looking for sponsors for the world record attempt, which has been dubbed 'Midsummer Madness', and has a range of sponsorship packages on offer.

McManus added: "As with all community clubs, funding is a key challenge. We are running this event to raise money towards building a new clubhouse for the benefit of our own members, visiting teams and the local community."

For members, the cost to register is €15, and €20 for non-members. To register your place, email [clubadmin@guafc.ie](mailto:clubadmin@guafc.ie). Also, see more on [www.guafc.ie](http://www.guafc.ie). The world record attempt will run for a minimum of 24 hours starting from 6pm on June 21st.

The latest innovative fundraiser follows the club's successful 'Legends' event last year, which pitched former Irish internationals, including Paul McGrath, Ray Houghton, Ronnie Whelan and Tony Cascarino, against the local team. The event marked the anniversary of Ireland's famous Euro '88 win over England.

## 90 Wicklow feasts in 2019

Registrations for Street Feast 2019 opened last week with the announcement of Sunday 5th May as national Street Feast Day. This year sees the 10th birthday of one of the most successful community initiatives in Ireland with over 120,000 people celebrating Street Feast last year. An impressive 84 Street Feasts were held across County Wicklow in 2018 with almost 7,000 neighbours taking part and the organisers are hoping for 90 Wicklow feasts this year.

Wicklow hosts can sign up for a free Street Feast pack which includes bunting, invitations, posters and a handy guide.

A total of 1,344 feasts were organised nationwide in 2018 and organisers are aiming to increase this to at least 1500. Street Feast 2019 is taking place as part of the inaugural National Community Weekend hosted by the Department of Rural & Community Development.

Wicklow County Council, who are once again supporting Street Feast in Wicklow, are providing free Play Packs to Street Feast hosts. Hosts can also apply for a small

grant from Wicklow County Council to help towards any extra costs.

Street Feast was set up by Sam Bishop and a group of volunteers in 2009 as a non-profit, community building initiative. Sam is a native of Newtownmountkennedy where the first Street Feast was held. Since then it has grown steadily. This year Street Feast is once again teaming up with Oireachtas na Gaeilge and with support from Udarás na Gaeltachta and Foras na Gaeilge they hope to have at least 30 'Féasta Sráide' on 5th May.

"Street Feast is about building community and tackling isolation. It is a great opportunity for people to get together with their neighbours to share food and enjoy some conversation and camaraderie. It doesn't matter if you live in an apartment or house, all you need is an outdoor space to bring people together. We have had feasts organised in front gardens, on streets and greens, in carparks, laneways, local parks and community centres. We are delighted to be celebrating 10 years of Street Feast this year and think it will be bigger than ever especially as it now part of the great new National Community Weekend initiative," says Sam.

"Organising a Street Feast is free and could not be easier. Hosts can register for a free Street Feast pack including bunting, invitations, posters and guides. All they have to do is spread the word amongst a few neighbours and get everyone to bring along some food and drink for sharing. It has been hugely successful and we have great stories of neighbours meeting each other for the first time at Street Feasts, making great connections and starting initiatives such as community gardens, residents associations and babysitting clubs. It fosters an excellent community spirit which is so important in this digital age when we need to build resilient, healthy communities."



Pictured: Sam Bishop and some of the Street Feast volunteers as they launch the registrations for Street Feast 2019.

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# FLAVOURS OF ASIA - THE RISING STAR OF ARKLLOW

**I**t takes a lot to miss Wok Star, with its bright orange entrance enticing all who pass by to enter. Wok Star is more than a Chinese restaurant, it is a fusion restaurant combining the best recipes from all over Asia including an incredible array of Indian and Nepali dishes.

Using only fresh ingredients for the best results, customers can taste the passion that goes into the preparation and cooking of the food. The team at Wok

Star is young, bright and professional, managed by Shanta who has a passion for exciting food and great service.

Indeed, all of The

wonderful chefs at Wok Star have incredible enthusiasm for creating unique, exquisite dishes. There is no post-takeaway guilt at Wok Star as the dishes are

made from healthy, fresh food that's good for both your body and mind as well as delighting your palate.

At Wok Star, everything is created from scratch, and they even grind their own mince. The spice mix is unique and has many special health benefits. Wok Star's spice mix is made from a variety of spices such as cloves, star anise, coriander seeds, nutmeg, and cinnamon stick.

Also made in-house is the yogurt and paneer, and the wide variety of different sauces. Ginger and gar-



Head Chef Shanta.



Chicken Wings.



Mixed Grill.

lic are used effectively to deliver flavour as well as health benefits such as boosting immunity and fighting common colds.

The vegetables that make up Wok Star's stir-fries and noodle dishes are delivered fresh to the restaurant every day.

## MEET THE MAN BEHIND WOK STAR

Chef Shanta, the owner, recently celebrated the one year anniversary of its opening and says Wok Star is the best thing he's ever done.

Creative, delicious food and happy customers are what he strives for every day. 'When I first opened, it was my childhood that most strongly influenced the style of food I wanted to serve and how I wanted to serve it'. Shanta has hospitality in his blood, being born into a family of hoteliers and restaurateurs in Nepal. 'Hospitality is at the core of Nepali culture - we love to make our guests happy and look after them well'. That is what makes Wok Star an experience not to be missed.



vering passion that make his food some of the best in Co. Wicklow. 'Asian food may seem daunting for some, but the flavours, freshness and beauty of it makes it a cuisine that cannot be ignored'. The menu completely incorporates this - it has a wide range of dishes from all over Asia. Thailand, China and Japan come in strongly

with wonderful noodle dishes and curries, while Shanta's home cooking from Nepal and India's best curries are very present.

Chef Shanta was born into hospitality, growing up in a family running hotels and restaurants in Nepal. He now lives in Greystones with his family. Shanta hopes to open another Wok Star next year.

## FRESH TO WOK

Shanta prides himself on looking after his customers, and that includes making sure the food he makes is of the highest quality.

He has worked as a chef in Ireland for over a decade now, and it is that experience plus his unwa-

## CHEF RECOMMENDS: MO:MO

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Pictured is Oran Colhoun from Greystones, Chef of the Year

## GREYSTONES CHEF NAMED IRISH 'CHEF OF THE YEAR'

Local Greystones chef Oran Colhoun has been named 'Chef of the Year in Ireland', beating stiff competition to claim the prestigious title at Catex 2019, Ireland's largest food service and hospitality show, held in the RDS, Dublin.

Oran competed against seven other finalists during an intense live cook-off to secure his place in the company's European finals in April, where Chef Jamie Oliver will be on hand throughout the competition to offer advice and guidance to finalists.

The theme for this year's national competition was "From Farm to Fork". Finalists were required to prepare, cook and present two portions

of a main course dish using only plant based ingredients.

Oran was awarded the title Aramark Chef of the Year after he impressed and delighted the panel of judges with his dishes of wild Irish mushroom Wellington, pickled vegetables, potato foam, pea purée, mint oil and Madeira jus. His dessert comprised of a lemon meringue egg in a nest of pistachio chocolate and almond soil chocolate

feather limoncello 'egg yolk' lemon and lime ice cream.

Oran is the Head Chef of Visitor Catering at the Guinness Storehouse in Dublin. Cooking since he was 15 years of age, he entered the competition this year having never competed before. He explained "I felt I was in a good position to try it out. Working with your hands, being creative, it's a great way to express yourself."

The highly competitive

annual awards are open to Aramark Catering chefs from throughout the island of Ireland and are judged by a panel of distinguished chefs.

Oran will now represent Ireland at Aramark's European Chef's Cup, which will be held on April 4th. The prestigious competition will take place in London with skilled chefs from across Europe competing for the coveted title.

## Wicklow to host international Ecotrail running event

Wicklow is to become the 10th destination worldwide to host the prestigious Ecotrail international running event. On Saturday 28th September this epic event will start and finish on Bray Seafront. Wicklow will welcome trail runners from around the world to experience the amazing scenery across a selection of challenging routes; 17km, 28km, 42km and 80km. The event was formally launched in Paris last weekend with Wicklow Tourism and the Ecotrail team at the end of Ecotrail Paris.

Ecotrail was first organised in Paris ten years ago with the objective to connect the city with the outdoors with a stunning finish on the first floor of the Eiffel Tower. Ecotrail comes with a very strong eco-responsible ethos and each event is committed to reduce litter, minimise environmental impact and promote public transport. The Ecotrail concept has been recreated around various cities in Europe and is now held in Reykjavik, Oslo, Stockholm, Brussels, Geneva, Florence, Madrid and Funchal (Madeira).

The trails themselves will take participants to some of Wicklow's most scenic locations including Bray Head, Killruddery Gardens, The Great Sugarloaf, Powerscourt Waterfall, the Wicklow Way, Lough Tay viewing point and Piers Gate and all the way to Roundwood and the Vartry Reservoir.

"This event will be a truly scenic feast," says Fred Verdier from Wicklow County Tourism. "Exclusive access to the world renowned Killruddery and Powerscourt Estates will very much enhance the experience for the participants. Any running enthusiast should have this event on their 'must do' list."

While the long distances are probably for the experienced trail runners, the 17 and 27k routes are ideal for road runners that want to have a try at trail running.

"The concept of Ecotrail offers a truly international exposure and is ideal to promote the Wicklow Outdoors brand," says Frank Curran, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council. "The platform will give Wicklow twelve months on constant exposure through the various

Ecotrail events held around Europe. Furthermore, the Eco-friendly concepts fits perfectly to our destination." "We are absolutely delighted to welcome Wicklow into the Ecotrail family" adds Jean Charles Perrin, Ecotrail founder and CEO of Ecotrail International. "Trail

Running is one of the fastest-growing sports in the world, and Wicklow is a fantastic addition to our destinations. Having seen the beauty of Wicklow late last year, Ecotrail Wicklow might just become one of our most popular events."



The Ecotrail running event will take participants through some of Wicklow's most scenic locations



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# Arklow blooms for 2019

Following on the success of the Flower Basket Scheme over the last two years, Arklow Town Team (ATT) will continue to enhance and improve the image of Arklow's Main Street by once again launching a Flower Basket Scheme for 2019.

Research has shown that this type of scheme can bring many social and environmental benefits to a town.

Arising from feedback received from businesses, the Town Team will purchase fuller and brighter baskets and have entered into an agreement with Topline Bolands Arklow to provide the baskets this year.

However, it has been necessary to increase the cost of a basket to €45. For this amount participants will receive the following: A fully planted 16" flower basket (with plant food and water crys-

tals); Wall Bracket mounted on building by AMD staff (for new participants); Connection to the irrigation system if business is located on Upper Main Street to Lower Main Street (Laffins Lane)

An irrigation system has been installed from Upper Main Street to Lower Main Street (Laffins Lane). Businesses outside of the irrigation system may also purchase baskets but, will be responsible for watering their own baskets.

Baskets will be delivered during the last week in May and collected at

the end of September for reuse in 2020. Any business interested in contributing to making Arklow bloom for 2019 should contact Arklow Town Team, indicating the number of baskets and brackets, if any, required.

Anyone requiring any further details on the flower basket scheme or wishing to place an order should contact Deirdre Bentley by email at dbentley@live.ie or arklow-townteam@wicklowco.ie or phone the Arklow Municipal District Office at 0402 42700. Closing date for orders is Friday, 5th April.



Pictured: 'Ladies in the Blues' Clara Rose, Emma Nicolai, Jhil Quin and Grainne Hunt will perform at Christ Church in Bray on 30th March.

## Bringing the Blues back home

Celebrate the power of women in the history of the blues with 'Ladies in the Blues' music theatre show, at Christ Church in Bray on Saturday March 30th. From gospel halls to smokey juke joints, the blues is heading back to its origins - to the grand surrounds of Christ Church on the Rock of Bray.

The show takes you on a musical voyage from the gospel roots of the 1920s, through vaudeville & jazz, to the blues rock of the 60s & 70s. It's a women's journey through song with iconic visual backdrops of all those great female trailblazers - Ella Fitzgerald, Nina Simone, Billie Holiday, Ma Rainey, Etta James, Sr Rosetta Tharpe, Bessie Smith, Janice Joplin and many more. The all-Irish cast comprises four diverse female singers including Bray women - Emma Nicolai plus a crackin' band of blues sidemen. In addition, this particular show also features a very special guest - Ireland's first and foremost blues women & Bray resident - Bree Harris accompanied by Paul Fairclough.

Ladies in the Blues' journey began in 2015 as a pub gig and has since premiered to SOLD-OUT audiences in the Mermaid Arts Centre for two nights in March 2017. The show went back to sell out again in February 2018. After critical acclaim and the hit of Cork Jazz Festival, the ladies have recently completed a nationwide theatre tour, receiving standing ovations everywhere they go.

Valentine's day 1920 was an iconic moment in blue's history when Mamie Smith stepped up to the microphone in The Okeh Company in New York and shouted out "That Thing Called Love". This was the first recording of a black female vocalist! It led to a second recording which sold 75000 copies in its first month of release and although it wasn't a classic blues recording it opened the door to a generation of

'Classic Blues' vocalists. Through that door came Ma Rainey, Bessie Smith, Ida Cox, Alberta Hunter and many more transforming the blues from local folk music into the art form it is today. These blues women brought black culture into the American main stream.

The cast includes singers - Clara Rose, Ireland's songstress of

rockin' blues who has recently toured with the great Don Baker; Wicklow native, Emma Nicolai; Dun Laoghaire Queen of Vaudeville, Jhil Quin on washboard and vocals and introduces singer songwriter, Grainne Hunt. The show's 'house band' comprises Ed Deane on guitar, James Delaney on keys, Eoghan O'Neill on bass and Kevin Malone on

drums. This band, the cream of JJ Smyth's Irish blues scene, have performed on world stages. The show has released two singles 'Jelly Roll' & 'Misunderstood' plus the album "Ladies In The Blues Live" which is now on sale.

In 'Ladies in the Blues' we bring these pioneering women to life - singing such songs as CC Ryder,

Black Coffee Blues, I Put a Spell on You, Bring it on Home to Me, Ball and Chain, Piece of My Heart, Feelin Good, I'd Rather Go Blind, Ain't Nobody's Business and many more.

Tickets online at [ladiesintheblues.com](http://ladiesintheblues.com).

Ticket outlets are: Fleuritque Bray, Travel Boutique Bray, Hot Spot Music Club Greystones and Church parish office at Sunday Services.

Doors open 7pm. The show starts at 8pm. Refreshments available.

## 54th annual exhibition by Greystones Art Group

Greystones Art Group's 54th Annual Exhibition opens April 5th at Charlesland Golf Club. The exhibition features members' paintings which will be on display daily from 11am- 7pm until Sunday 7th April at 5pm.

The artworks span generations, mediums and disciplines and as it is a group exhibition there is sure to be something for everyone to enjoy.

At 3pm on Saturday afternoon there will be a live painting demonstration by Joyce Odum, an oil artist and instructor from Wicklow. A raffle will be held over the weekend with proceeds going to local charity, The Gavin Glynn Foundation.

Asked about the art exhibition, a Greystones Art Group spokesperson said; "we are delighted to be once again holding our annual art exhibition, it's always a highlight in our art calendar. This year has been a really exciting time for the group as it is diversifying and opening up to new opportunities; including more exhibitions, inspirational demonstrations, outdoor painting sessions and we're hoping to hold a series of creative workshops." She continued; "everyone is welcome to come have a look and we expect it to be a busy weekend."

Established in 1965, Greystones Art Group is one of Ireland's longest running art groups. It has a diverse set of members and is a fun and inspirational way to practice in a creative space.

The main purpose of the group was, and still is today, to encourage amateur artists. The aim is to advance members artistic knowledge and skills through ongoing lectures and demonstrations. In addition there are also Annual Exhibitions of paintings and other works of art, for all members, both amateur and professional.

More information can be found at [www.greystonesartgroup.com](http://www.greystonesartgroup.com) including biographies and sample work from a variety of members.

## INTO Skills Challenge

The annual Cumann na mBunscol Wicklow Skills competition will take place in regional venues this week. The age limit has changed and is now the same for all schools regardless of enrolment numbers. Participants must be born on or after January 1st 2007.

Each school is permitted to send two representatives per code to compete in: Gaelic Football (boys); Gaelic Football (girls), Hurling and Camogie.

The top two pupils in each code from each area will be invited to compete in the County Skill Tests scheduled for April 3rd in Wicklow GAA Centre of Excellence, Ballinakill at 11am. The top performing pupils in the County Skills tests will have the opportunity to represent their school and county during the half-time of selected All Ireland Series games during the summer.

It is encouraged that each school host their own internal tests to aid selection of their representatives before forwarding them to the regional skill tests.

The North-East test will take place on Wednesday March 27th in Bray Emmets, Boys/Girls Football at 11 a.m. and Hurling/Camogie at 12.15 p.m.

Dates and venues for the South and West regions will be confirmed as soon as possible but the competition is due to take place on the week beginning March 25th.

To register please send the registration form and €50 cheque/cash to the Cisteoir, Emer Fahy, St. Anthony's Building, Kilcoole Primary School, Kilcoole.

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Pictured: Len and Gabby Briones at the St. Patrick's Day parade in Bray

## Wicklow's spelling champ!

**Naia O'Callaghan Royo is this year's winner of the County Wicklow Spelling Bee Final.**

Naia, who is a 6th Class pupil at Scoil Naomh Phádraig, Avoca, came out on top after stiff competition from her 17 fellow spelling enthusiasts and will go on to compete in the Leinster Provincial Spelling Bee in May. Naia is an avid reader and loves the Harry Potter series.

Now in its ninth year, the Eason Spelling Bee is the very definition of fun for school kids, encouraging them to read more, expand their vocabulary and fall in love with literacy.

Along with the prestigious title of Eason Spelling Bee 2019 Champion, the winning speller will also take home a collection of books for their school library, worth €7,500 as well as a personal collection of books worth €500.

This year, 900 schools around Ireland will take part in the nationwide contest.

In the early summer, radio presenter Alison Curtis will host the Provincial and All Ireland Spelling Bee Finals.



Naia O'Callaghan Royo, winner of the Wicklow Spelling Bee

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# Application for CCTV cameras for Greystones welcomed

**Greystones Municipal District is to seek funding from the Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform towards the installation of a community-based CCTV system for Greystones.**

It is intended that such a CCTV system would increase public safety and deter illegal or anti-social behaviour.

In consultation with the local Gardaí, a survey of the town has been carried out and, subject to funding, it is proposed to install 11 cameras on poles at locations between the Harbour and Mill Road.

A map showing the

exact locations is on display and available to view in the offices of Greystones Municipal District and Greystones Garda Station.

The Council is seeking submissions on the CCTV proposal in writing or by email to Greystones MD, Civic Offices, Mill Road, Greystones - Greystonesmd@wicklowcoco.ie - to be

received by Friday 29th March 2019.

The Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District Councillor Nicola Lawless has welcomed the application for the Community CCTV scheme, saying "The committee which I am a member has done extensive work on this issue and has identified the areas in Greystones that cameras are required.

The locations cover a lot of the exits and entries into our town. We have other CCTV cameras within the Greystones District, and we are hoping to connect these cameras up to the one system. I am delighted that Greystones has submitted an application for the scheme and public submissions on this scheme are welcome."

## Soc Dems announce new candidate for Bray East

Bray resident Eamonn Moran has been selected as the Social Democrats' local election candidate for the Bray East ward. Eamonn was selected at the Party's Wicklow branch selection convention on Thursday 14th March.

Originally from Avoca Drive on the Boghall Road, and now living on the O'Byrne Road, Eamonn has been a Bray resident his whole life. An IT sales professional, he is a prominent local activist, and was heavily involved in the campaign to repeal the Eighth Amendment in the Bray area, where he conceived and helped implement the Repeal Aid fundraiser for Together for Yes. He is passionate in the areas of housing and homelessness, volunteering with Bray Area Rough Sleepers Support, and attending the recent housing rallies. Previously he worked as a volunteer for Marino Clinic summer camps, participated in local amateur dramatics, and has a keen interest in Bray's local history.

Reacting to his selection as local election candidate for Bray East, Moran said: "Having lived in Bray all my life and having been an active member of the community, I think I can bring a lot of new perspectives to the council. I knocked on a lot of doors around here during the Repeal campaign, and I'm looking forward to doing so again this time to introduce myself and the positive vision I have for our community.

"I'm really proud to have played a part in the Together for Yes campaign, and was delighted that Bray voted overwhelmingly in favour of repeal. I'm intent on continuing to represent the progressive values which I encountered in Bray more broadly.

"Without a doubt the biggest problems in Bray revolve around the crazy housing policies pursued by successive FG and FF governments. I want to act to fight the powerful vested interests that keep homeownership out of the reach of ordinary families. The prospect of a lifetime in private rental accommodation without any security of tenure has become a sad reality for so many - and the government's inaction is only making the situation worse. The government's reaction isn't to do something about this crisis that benefits over 150,000 landlords, it's to mount a PR campaign to deflect their inaction.

"People in Bray want to live in a decent society that protects our most vulnerable while realising how vital a vibrant flourishing business community

is. The Nordic model of social democracy consistently delivers the best outcomes in terms of housing, education, healthcare and citizens' overall happiness and contentment. There is no reason why we in Ireland can't embrace this model and enjoy similar outcomes."

The Social Democrats' General Election Candidate for Wicklow, Cllr. Jennifer Whitmore, said: "I'm delighted to see Eamonn get the nomination to run for the Bray East local electoral area. He will make an excellent County Councillor and I look forward to working with him in my capacity as Candidate for Wicklow to address those issues that affect people on a daily basis, such as housing, transport and improved community facilities."



*Lailli de Buitlear with Michael and Valerie Hannon at the coffee morning in the Pigeon House, Delgany, to mark Seachtain na Gailge. The event was organised by Delgany Community Council. Lailli is originally from a Gaeltacht area and has an Irish-speaking dog that only responds to Irish.*

## Bray Labour launch manifesto and candidates

**A large crowd of well-wishers thronged the Labour Party Office on Bray Seafront recently to help launch Labour's campaign for the Local Elections in Bray.**

Amongst the invited guests were Party Leader, Brendan Howlin TD, Sheila Nunan, European Candidate for Ireland South and Labour's General Secretary Brian McDowell. The launch was chaired by the party's National Chairperson and Wicklow Dáil Candidate, Jack O'Connor.

In their election manifesto, both candidates, Anne Ferris and Ian McGahon, called for the establishment of a new Bray Town Council with powers in planning, housing and environmental services and said the failed experiment of centralising powers at Wicklow County Council must be reversed. Protection of the environment is another central plank of their campaign as Bray needs a specific plan of action to combat climate change.

Ian McGahon said "I want to use my wide experience of working with minority groups to make Bray better and to make it an inclusive and integrated community. I have fought all my life passionately on equality issues and I want to make Bray a warm, welcoming, equal, and inclusive community."

Anne Ferris said "As a woman, I am particularly committed to advancing women's equality as well as campaigning in areas of decent, affordable housing, mental health issues and the increasing costs of education from pre-school to third level. The fact that we have not had a woman on the Council representing the people of Bray in the past five years is, in my opinion, a backward step."

## Pre-election plea for Bray skate park

**Founder and Chairperson of Bray Coastcare Group Seamus Connor has called on all candidates running in the Bray Local Elections to make securing a skate park for the town one of their main election promises.**

Mr Connor said "I personally believe the people of Bray, especially our young people, deserve to have a skate/bmx park installed in our town. I often see young people down near the bandstand along Bray beach skating and

it is a real shame they still have not got a safe and specially designed skate/bmx park to use in their hometown.

"I believe that this is so badly needed and long overdue. This is especially true when we think how large an

urban area Bray is and also seeing that much smaller towns like Greystones have had a public skatepark for years now. Bray (especially our young people) needs more free public recreation options such as this for numerous

reasons such as improving mental health and encouraging exercise. I would encourage the people of Bray to ask the candidates at their door in the coming weeks about this.

Mr Connor said he considered running in the Bray Municipal District local elections but will instead "continue working to better Bray as much as I can in a voluntary role" with Bray Coastcare.



*The Social Democrats' Bray East candidate Eamonn Moran and his wife Ileana with Cllr Jennifer Whitmore at the Party's recent Wicklow branch selection convention.*





Sean Olohan at the All Ireland Lions Convention in Kinsale with his certificate of appreciation.

# Two awards for Wicklow Lions' Sean Olohan at All Ireland Lions Convention

There were big celebrations at the recent Wicklow and District Lions Club meeting as president Pat O'Brien announced that Sean Olohan, the club's PR officer and Vice President was honoured with two major awards at the All Ireland Lions Convention which was held in Kinsale.

Sean was presented with a special District Governors award for his song "Sing with the Lions" which he composed for International President Gudrun Yngvadottir. The song is receiving huge interest and success throughout the world on YouTube. It has been distributed to all Lions Clubs worldwide. International Vice President of Lions International Brian E Sheehan from America made the presentation.

Sean's second award was for "All Ireland Scribe of the Year" for his input on behalf of his club in the weekly newsletter. He was presented with two trophies by PDG Joe Smilth.

Speaking afterwards Sean said that he was totally "shocked and surprised" and really appreciated the awards and will treasure each one for all time.

Wicklow was well represented at the convention by Joe Kirwin and Pat O'Brien as well as Sean.

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#### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I Emma Coughlan intend to apply for full Planning Permission for a new rear two storey extension upon existing Ground floor rear extensions, for Attic conversion to useable storage and placement of 2 new Velux windows in roof to front, and 1 Dormer window in roof to rear at 30 Wolfe Tone Square South, Bray, Co Wicklow.  
The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

#### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplandesign.com) Seeks planning permission for a dwelling, waste water treatment system to EPA standards, garage and associated works at Mullinaveigue, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow for T. Cronin. 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

Full planning permission being applied for first floor extension to side of existing semi detached house, conversion of attic area to habitable space with new dormer window to rear roof, conversion of attached garage to utility area, new velux windows to front and side roofs, replacement of glazed roof over rear conservatory with flat roof and all associated site works at St. Marys, Parnell Road, Bray for Philip and Kirsten Craig. 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.  
A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20, within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

#### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I Robert Fisher intend to apply for permission for a new dwelling, garage, new entrance, wastewater treatment unit, soil polishing filter, new well and associate works at Carrigower, Kilpedder, 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

Full planning permission being applied for development for two 2 storey detached houses with future attic accommodation on individual sites, existing front entrance to Knockrath site (off Church Lane) to be modified to incorporate new entrances and driveways and all associated site works at Knockrath, Church Lane, Greystones for Marguerite Fairclough. 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.  
A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20, within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

#### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplandesign.com) Seeks planning permission for demolition of existing rear extension and proposed new single and part two storey extension to rear, internal alterations, proposed new front porch to dwelling and associated works at 25 O'Neill Park, Newtownmountkenedy, Co. Wicklow for E. Ellis. 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

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplandesign.com) Seeks planning permission for demolition of existing side extension and proposed new single storey side and rear extension, and proposed new front porch to dwelling and associated works at 6 St Peters Place, Arklow, Co. Wicklow for M. Healy. 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.



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Wicklow County Council reserves the right to shortlist candidates in the manner it deems most appropriate

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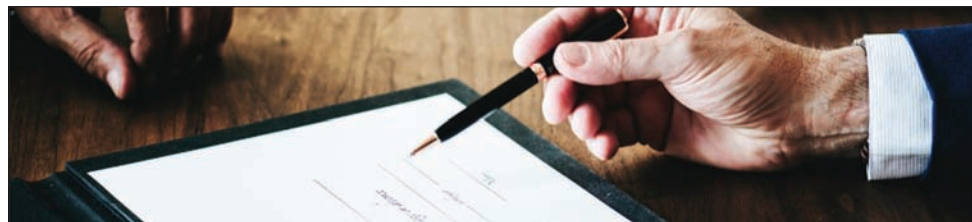
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