



SENSORY GARDEN
page 14



EARLY EDUCATION
page 12



GLOBAL SCHOOLS
page 17

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Tuesday 30th April 2019

5 Eglinton Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow

Tel: 01 - 2869111

www.wicklowtimes.net

E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie

SKELETON FIANNA FAIL IN BRAY

TWO PROMINENT AND LONGTIME MEMBERS ARE RUNNING AS INDEPENDENTS

Prominent local members of Bray Fianna Fáil have left the organisation saying that Fianna Fáil HQ has abandoned the membership.

Local Bray barrister Malachai Duddy, the Cathaoirleach of the County Wicklow Constituency Comhairle Dáil Cheantar has resigned from Fianna Fáil, as has Enniskerry man Rory O'Connor, a great-grandson of Fianna Fáil founding member and Taoiseach Seán Lemass.

Duddy claims Bray membership in Fianna Fáil has collapsed. Local Fianna Fáil sources have claimed that "It is now clear that Fianna Fáil headquarters has cooperated in the wrestling of the

local North Wicklow Fianna Fáil organisation from the hands of the membership and handing it to Stephen Donnelly on a plate, creating an oligarchy that is deaf to the membership."

One former Fianna Fáil member said, "I have seen the loyalty and hard work of the local membership sacrificed over the expediency of the whims of Deputy Donnelly, where two weak candidates have now been placed in the field in Bray, including one who was never even a

Fianna Fáil member.

"Fianna Fáil headquarters, in permitting Stephen Donnelly this level of control over the North Wicklow organisation, is creating a Donnelly dictatorship where a 'boys club' of his former parliamentary assistant and his Blackrock based public relations guru Conor Dempsey, who voted at the Bray convention, having never attended a single meeting, are having a greater say over the local Fianna Fáil organisation than the democratic interests of the membership and



Pictured is Fiona Hannon, with Daniel, Andrew and David Hannon at the launch of the family Hell & Back, a joint fundraiser between St. Patrick's and St. Cronan's national schools in Bray. The event will take place on May 6th in Killruddery Estate. Pic: Joe McQuillan



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"With just a skeleton Fianna Fáil membership left, Stephen Donnelly is attempting to assert control over the organisation by inserting Donnelly loyalists at Wicklow County Council level with the support of Fianna Fáil HQ over the heads of the local membership and supporters.

Malachai Duddy has announced his intention to stand as an Independent candidate in the local election for the Bray East Local Electoral Area.

With a young family, Malachai says he is keenly aware of the issues facing families in Bray: "a lack of decent, affordable housing, the need to improve traffic and transport infrastructure while preserving the town's important heritage, and improving family friendly local amenities."

Malachai Duddy has been active locally in

opposing the sale of a multi-million euro seafront property, formerly the Barracuda restaurant, which was sold by Wicklow County Council in 2015 for just €10,000. He also campaigned to save the historic St Paul's Lodge on the Herbert Road from demolition.

Malachai is actively involved with numerous local organisations including serving as a voluntary director of Bray Credit Union, the executive of Bray Chamber of Commerce, the Bray 1916 Centenary Committee and is a member of his local Parish Pastoral Council. As a lawyer he has worked on human rights and social justice issues, with the Vincentian Partnership of Social Justice and the National Organisation of the Unemployed. At a national level he serves on the board of the Boxing Union of Ireland and has repre-

sented Bray on the National Council of the Credit Union Development

Association (CUDA). From a well-known local Bray family, Malachai says, "Four

generations of my family have lived in Bray, where I still live with my young family."

INDEPENDENT Cllr Tom Fortune VOTE No.1

POLITICAL VALUES

- I like to help people
- I challenge unfairness
- I support people in dealings with local government
- I ask the hard questions
- I have an independent mind
- I bring my life experience to what I do

This is what motivates me

EXPERTISE

- My knowledge of local government
- My business background
- My approach in seeking fairness on your behalf
- Dealing with local government on your behalf



#TheVoiceofReason

Ph: 0862488195 Email: tom.fortune49@gmail.com

Web: tomfortune.ie

Twitter: @CllrTomF

Facebook: Cllr Tom Fortune #TheVoiceOfReason #LE19



Pictured is Graham Plunkett with Lucy and Ellis Plunkett at the launch of the family Hell & Back, a joint fundraiser between St. Patrick's and St. Cronan's national schools in Bray. The event will take place on May 6th in Killruddery Estate.

Vartry Rowing Club take on the Celtic Challenge

Vartry Rowing Club in Wicklow Town will be racing 150 kilometers from Arklow to Wales on the May bank holiday weekend in fundraiser for St Vincent's cancer unit.

The club was established in 2013 and every year competes in long distance rowing races of 15 to 20 kilometers throughout the summer. In addition to these conventional distance races, every second year the club competes in the Bi-Annual Celtic challenge rowing race from Arklow to Aberystwyth in Wales.

In conjunction with the club's participation in the Celtic challenge, their members endeavor to fundraise for a worthy cause, in the past the club has raised funds for Wicklow hospice, Wicklow lifeboat, Marie Keating foundation and divide awareness.

This year the club will be entering two crews into the 2019 Celtic

challenge, a men's crew and a women's crew, and have chosen the cancer care services in St Vincent's hospital to be the beneficiaries of their fundraising efforts.

If you would like to make a donation for this worthy cause you can do so via the St. Vincent's 'Donate a Gift' page at stvincentsfoundation.ie.

Wicklow Chamber Network Meeting

Wicklow Town & District Chamber will hold the next Wicklow Network Meeting on Wednesday 1st May.

Please note that 10 minute presentation slots are available and if you are interested contact them to put your name forward before Wednesday 1st May.

The meeting will take place at The Bridge Tavern (upstairs), Wicklow Town from 7.15am - 9am. There is a charge of €5 for a light breakfast.

This meeting is open to business owners, general managers, managing directors and senior partners of their own companies. Members and non-members are welcome.

Please RSVP Nicky at nicky@wicklowchamber.ie if you would like to attend this meeting.

What's Happening...

Country Market & Boot Sales

This has now moved to the 2nd Sunday of the month. Encouraging local and non-local producers of plants, vegetables, crafts etc, the next event will be on Sun, 12th May, open from 10am to 4pm. Bargains on practically anything from household items to garden additions, and even vintage or antique treasures. Vans must be booked in. Please pre-book indoor spaces early. Contact the Brockagh Centre on 0404-45600 or email laraghit@eircom.net if you wish to book an indoor space or if you prefer to sell outside just show up at 8am on the morning.

Blessington DIL

The first ever Blessington Darkness Into Light event will take place this year. The meeting point is the town square, and the walk will begin at 4:15am on May 11th. You can register on darknessintolight.ie.

Alzheimer's Tea Day

There will be a Tea Day event on Thursday 2nd May from 10.30am - 12pm in the Old Ship, Main St, Arklow. The event is a part of a national fundraising drive for The Alzheimer Society of Ireland.

Classical Music Club

The May meeting will be on Wednesday 1st May, in the usual venue: Shankill Old Folks' Centre, Lower Rd, Shankill, 7.45-10.00 pm, (tea and biscuits at the interval). Visitors welcome (€2). Just come along, or see further details of the club on www.shankillclassical.org, or ring or text John on 087-2109175.

Tidy Towns Laragh and Glendalough

A clean up around the area will be on May 7th and the tidy towns group welcome any helpers to meet opposite Lynhams at 7pm. The group are encouraging biodiversity in the area. Native trees were planted by the students of Tiny Feet in front of the Brockagh Resource Centre. For more information on how you can make a difference by choosing plants, flowers and trees that aid species, animals and habitats native to the valley go to www.pollintors.ie.

Books of condolence opened at Wicklow County Council

Wicklow County Council has opened an online Book of Condolence for people who wish to express their sympathy to family, partner and friends in Memory of Ms Lyra McKee.

Members of the public are invited to sign the Book of condolence online at www.wicklow.ie/Living/Your-Council/Customers-Care/Books-of-Condolence, and once closed, the Book will be delivered to Ms McKee's partner and family.

A second online Book of Condolence has been opened in memory of the victims of the Easter Sunday attacks in Sri Lanka. Once closed the book will be delivered to the Sri Lankan Embassy in Dublin.

The Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Pat Vance, extends his deepest sym-

pathy on the tragic loss of Ms McKee and also to the people of Sri Lanka at this time.

Mr Frank Curran, Chief Executive, said "By opening the Books of Condolence, Wicklow

County Council is giving the people of County Wicklow the opportunity to express their heartfelt sympathy to both communities on the tragic and meaningless loss of life."

First Saturday Book Sale

The May First Saturday Book Sale, which supports the Shankill Old Folks Association, takes place between 10am and 1pm on Saturday May 4th.

The book sale takes place in the Shankill Old Folks Centre, Lower Road, Shankill, so avail of the opportunity to pick up some great reading material for the summer from the wide selection of books on offer.

Donations of books, which must be in a good and clean condition, other than school/text books, will be accepted on that day.



Pictured is Verell Booth, one of the founders of the Shankill Old Folks Association, cutting her 100th birthday cake at a special party held in her honour at the Wednesday Tea Club in the Shankill Old Folks Centre.

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Think Safety

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Contacts:

Shay Fitzmaurice, Managing Editor - shay@localtimes.ie

Ian Colgan, News Editor - ian@localtimes.ie

Erika Doyle, Features Editor - erika@localtimes.ie

General enquiries - info@localtimes.ie

Six projects from Wicklow celebrated at Foróige Youth Citizenship Awards

Six projects from Wicklow took part in the Foróige Youth Citizenship Awards in the National Indoor Arena, Blanchardstown, on 13th April. This year is the fiftieth anniversary of the Youth Citizenship Programme, which was first run by Foróige in 1969. 2019 has been the biggest year for the programme ever, with over 14,000 young people taking part.

Chillax Juniors wanted to help the homeless at Christmas because they felt they had so much, whilst the homeless had so little. They decided the best way to do this was to harness their creative and crafty abilities and make sock snowmen and rice bunnies. They sold their crafts in the local vegetable shop and schools. The group plan to continue the project and sell the bunnies up to Easter.

Chillax Youth Café decided to work on the local St Patrick's Day parade for their project. They researched other parades around the country; put together a plan of improvement; submitted the plan to the St. Patrick's day parade committee and it was approved; they gathered a group of volunteers; they organised the stage set up, and directed where the safety barriers should be on the day. They brought new ideas to the parade and made it better on the day. The parade committee was delighted with their efforts.

The members of **Dunlavin Teen Scene** noticed the increase of homelessness in Ireland, and decided to do a shoebox collection. They researched the issue with Focus Ireland, and approached members of the community to contribute items to the shoeboxes. On completion of the project, they donated the shoeboxes to the Peter McVerry Trust in Newbridge. The young people plan to continue the project next year.

Manor Kilbride Foróige Club noticed that there were many people in the community that they

knew to see, but had never spoken to. After discussing the issue, they realised that there were not many opportunities for locals of all generations to get together, unless they were part of a team. They decided to organise 'Cuppa, Cake N Craic' - an event that would give all members of the community the opportunity to spend time together. The group planned activities, organised a venue, and publicised it locally. It was a massive success with over 150 people in attendance, and the young people learned that "no matter what age difference there is between people, they can enjoy each other's company." They also hope to run the event regularly in the future.

Having become aware of the work of a local school for children with special needs, **WAY Project** (a Garda Youth Division Project) arranged a visit to find out how they could help. They noticed that there were very few toys in the outdoor area and decided that they would make a playhouse for the children so that it could be used in all weathers and by children of all abilities. They researched how to put a play house together, sourced the materials, built the playhouse and painted it. The group learned how 'great it feels to do something for somebody else.' They will present the playhouse to St. Catherine's Special School in the coming weeks.

Through their research with young people in the community, **Wicklow Comhairle na nÓg** became aware that safety was a big concern. They

decided to work with local businesses and opinion leaders to create 'student safe zones' so that young people would have a place to go and a procedure to follow if ever they felt unsafe of under threat when in town. The group set out the 'safe zone steps' and created an official 'safe zone' document

for businesses.

They also designed a 'student safe zone' sign for participating business to display in their windows so that young people would know where the safe zones were. They promoted the concept heavily and then launched the initiative to young people across the County.



Chillax Juniors members at the Youth Citizenship Awards: Summer Walker, Angelaica D'alessandro, Aidan Forsyth, Adam O'Neill, and Alessio D'alessandro. Also pictured are MEP Mairead McGuinness, John Curtain from Aldi and David O'Reilly, Foróige.

Jack O'CONNOR



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E: jackoconnorwicklow@gmail.com
Website www.jackoconnor.ie

Best Wishes to everyone on MAYDAY International Workers Day

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Annie Waithira Burke,
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Ian McGahon,
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Paul O'Brien,
Wicklow



Sheila Nunan,
Ireland South

Please transfer your preferences to other Progressive Left Independents as well as the Green Party and Social Democrats

Website aims to hold Councillors to account

A website has been established aiming to show a record of how local Bray councillors have voted on various issues affecting the community.

Administrators of the site, braywatch.com, are hoping to hear from local community groups who want to share a record of the support they received from the current elected Bray councillors on various issues and campaigns.

The site states "We believe politicians should be judged on their actions, not on their promises. We are therefore inviting community groups to send us (email: info@braywatch.com), a record of how they were supported - or otherwise - by their local representatives, giving us a brief summary of the issue involved, the date on which the vote took place, and how each councillor voted on it. N.B. No offensive, or knowingly inaccurate, material will be published. For this reason, we would equally invite any local representative who feels he or she has been unfairly represented here to get in touch with us at the same email address, and we will gladly correct it."



Congratulations to Bray Credit Union staff member and DBS student Lorna Newell, who achieved joint 1st place in Ireland and joint 9th in the world in December's ACCA Financial Reporting (F7) Exam. 212 students sat the paper in Ireland and 15,572 students sat it globally in the December 2018 sitting. Bray Credit Union board and staff members wish Lorna every success for the future. Pic: Charlie Sharkey

ATTENTION CANDIDATES

Are you a candidate running in the local elections?

The May 13th edition of *Wicklow Times* will be an **ELECTION SPECIAL**, featuring profiles of all of the candidates who are running. Whether you're running for a Party or as an Independent, we want to hear from you so you can be featured. Please submit a short bio and a headshot photo to wicklowned@localtimes.ie by **MAY 8TH** to make sure you are featured in this edition. If you haven't yet thrown your hat in the ring, there's still time. The nomination period will end at 12noon on 4th May.

BRAY SUPERMARKET TAKES ON EXTRA SECURITY DUE TO ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Discount supermarket Lidl spoke to *Wicklow Times* following a spate of anti-social behaviour at their Bray branch and said they apologise to any customers who may have been inconvenienced by the teens responsible.

During the past couple of months a number of reports emerged on social media detailing a litany of abuse from a group of teens hanging around the Lidl carpark on the Dublin Road in Bray.

Among the many reports were details of teens damaging cars by kicking them, removing wing mirrors, spitting at passers by, jumping onto

moving cars, shouting abuse at customers and hitting children. The same group was thought to be responsible for vandalism in St Peter's graveyard and abusive behaviour at Supervalu in Castle Street. A number of people online spoke of their reluctance to return to the store due to fear of being attacked.

However Lidl told

Wicklow Times that they have listened to the concerns of customers and allocated additional security. Lidl said, "We are aware of anti-social behaviour taking place by a group of youths outside our store in Bray, Co. Wicklow. The safety of our store team and customers is, and remains a priority to us. As a result of the situation, addition-

al security was allocated to the store a few weeks ago which remains in place to focus purely on the unacceptable behaviour of these youths.

"The issues have been escalated to local Gardaí and we would like to apologise to any customers who may have been inconvenienced."

Instagram storm as videos of children posted online

Parents of young teens in the Bray area were appalled to discover that footage of their children had been uploaded to a number of specially created Instagram accounts last week.

The accounts were created with the sole purpose of showing clips of young teens kissing and sharing intimate moments with one another. After a number of people reported the page, Instagram eventually removed it from their platform.

The clips appear to have been recorded at teenage discos, and some at outdoor locations in Bray. It is thought that the young people were unaware of being filmed, and the clips were posted without their consent.

One of the clubs appearing in the clips is Storm Teenage Disco in Wicklow Town, a not for profit disco run by local gardai. The organisers released a statement last week saying it had come to their attention that videos were being recorded and posted without permission.

They said, "This practice will no longer be tolerated and any photos or videos subsequently posted on social media sites will result in the person who posted it being barred. Parents, please advise your kids about this."

They added that they will monitor the behaviour within the disco.



WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN

NOTICE OF ELECTION WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

An election of members for each of the local electoral areas of the above-mentioned local authority is about to be held.

Nomination papers may be obtained from the address below during the usual office hours.

A person may nominate himself/herself as a candidate or may, with his/her consent, be nominated by a proposer who is registered as a local government elector in the local electoral area of the local authority for which he/she proposes to nominate the candidate.

A nomination paper from a candidate of a registered political party must have a certificate of political affiliation attached which must be produced to me with his/her completed nomination paper.

If no certificate is attached, the candidate must, before the latest time for receiving nominations, either-

- secure 15 assents to the nomination by way of statutory declarations by local government electors registered in the relevant local electoral area (forms available from me or the registration authority), or
- make a deposit of €100 (deposit may also be made on the candidate's behalf).

The latest time for receiving nominations is 12 noon on Saturday the 4th day of May, 2019.

Completed nomination papers may be delivered to me in person by the candidate or his/her proposer at any time when I am at my office, from 10am on the 27th day of April, 2019 until 12 noon on the last day for receiving nominations.

I am required by law to attend to receive nominations between 10am and 12 noon and between 2pm and 5pm on Friday the 3rd day of May, 2019 and between 10am and 12 noon on Saturday the 4th day of May, 2019.

If the election is contested, a poll will be taken on the 24th day of May, 2019 between the hours of 7:00 am and 10:00 pm.

Thomas Murphy, Returning Officer,
County Buildings, Wicklow Town

24th day of April, 2019

FÓGRA TOGHCHÁIN COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN

Táthar ar tí toghchán a reáchtáil chun comhaltaí do gach aon cheann de thoghlimistéir áitiúla a thoghadh don údarás áitiúil atá luaite thuas.

Is féidir páipéir ainmniúcháin a fháil ón seoladh thíos le linn gnáthuaire oifige.

Féadfaidh duine é féin nó í féin a ainmniú mar iarrthóir i dtoghchán nó féadfaidh duine eile (is duine atá cláraithe mar thoghthóir rialtais áitiúil i limistéar an údaráis áitiúil a bhfuil sé beartaithe ag an duine an t-iarrthóir a ainmniú dó), mar mholtóir, é nó í a ainmniú, lena thoiliú nó lena toiliú i scríbhinn.

Ní mór deimhniú cleamhnachta polaitíochta a bheith ag gabháil le páipéir ainmniúcháin ó iarrthóir páirtí polaitíochta cláraithe agus caithfear é a thabhairt ar aird domsa lena fhoirm/lena foirm ainmniúcháin chomhlánaithe.

Mura mbeidh aon deimhniú tugtha ar aird ní mór don iarrthóir, roimh an am is déanaí chun ainmniúcháin a fháil, ceachtar den dá rud seo a dhéanamh –

- cúig aontú dhéag leis an ainmniúchán a fháil trí dhearbhuithé reachtúla ó thoghthóir rialtais áitiúil a bheidh cláraithe sa toghlimistéar áitiúil ábhartha (tá na foirmeacha ar fáil uaimse nó ón údarás cláraithe), nó
- éarlais de €100 a íoc (is féidir éarlais a íoc thar ceann an iarrthóra freisin).

Is é 12 meánlae Dé Sathairn an 4ú lá de Bhealtaine, 2019 an t-am is déanaí le hainmniúcháin a ghlacadh.

Is féidir leis an iarrthóir nó lena mholtóir/a moltóir páipéir ainmniúcháin chomhlánaithe a sheachadadh chugam i bpearsa tráth ar bith a bhím i m'oifig, ó 10am an 27ú lá de hAibreán, 2019 go 12 meánlae ar an lá is déanaí le hainmniúcháin a ghlacadh.

Tá ceangal orm faoin dlí a bheith i láthair le glacadh le hainmniúcháin idir 10am agus 12 meán lae agus idir 2pm agus 5pm Dé hAoine an 3ú lá de Bhealtaine, 2019 agus idir 10am agus 12 meán lae Dé Sathairn 4ú lá de Bhealtaine, 2019.

Má bhíonn toghachán comhraic ann, reáchtálfar vótaíocht an 24ú lá de Bhealtaine, idir 7:00 am agus 10:00 pm.

Tomás Ó Murchú, Ceann Comhairimh,
Oifig na gConntae, Baile Chill Mhantáin.

24ú lá de hAibreán, 2019.

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Pictured: Ruth Prenderville, Ciara Perks and Eileen Murphy at the Shay Cullen Race Night fundraiser in Lynham's of Laragh

Tinahely student to volunteer in Uganda

Anna Hedderman from Tinahely will volunteer her time with the Nurture Africa programme on a three-week placement in Nansana, Uganda during June.



Pictured: Anna Hedderman

Uganda is one of the world's poorest countries. By contributing to Nurture Africa projects, Anna can help make a positive difference for people in one of Uganda's most vulnerable communities.

Volunteering will give Anna a unique opportunity to experience life within a Ugandan community where she will work as part of a team with Ugandan staff members. Her volunteering activities will include working on community projects and assisting with education.

Nurture Africa is an Irish founded organization that carries out invaluable work in Uganda. Anna plans to raise funds for the organization and her stay before she travels to Uganda. Anna will host a Coffee Morning fundraiser on Friday 3rd May in The Courthouse Arts Centre from 10 a.m. to 1p.m.

So do come along for a cuppa and help Anna with her fundraising efforts. There will be a great selection of home-baking also. Everyone is welcome! For more information visit www.nurtureafrica.ie.

New Local Link Bus

A new 183 bus service operating at regular times each day from Glendalough to Wicklow and returning has started. Pick up and drop at Glendalough Visitor Centre, Laragh (Great Gas), Annamoe (Family Fishing Centre), Roundwood (Wood's Bistro), Ashford, Rathnew then several stops in Wicklow Town. The service began operating on 15th April. Fares between Lidl and Wicklow Gaol cost €1 single, while other trips cost €3 for a single adult ticket and €2 for a single ticket for under 16's.

Go For Life

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

Shankill Library

As part of the Bealtaine Festival, there will be a 'Felting Workshop' with Miriam Brady from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. on Wednesday May 8th in Shankill Library, Library Road, Shankill at which participants will learn how to create a personalised felt picture with wool or silk - no experience need. Free but booking required - to book a place call 01-2827801 or email: shankilllib@dlrcoco.ie.

'Give it some welly' and answer the Mayday call

Volunteer lifeboat crews in Wicklow and Arklow are calling on people to support Mayday, the RNLI's annual national fundraising campaign as they announced their rescue figures for 2018.

Lifeboat volunteer and comedian PJ Gallagher helped launch the campaign along with Arklow fundraiser Mary Nolan Hickey, in a bid to encourage people to sign up at rnli.org/mayday to hold an event or donate.

The volunteer lifeboat crew at Wicklow RNLI launched 32 times in 2018 bringing 40 people to safety, while lifeboat crew at Arklow RNLI launched 13 times, bringing 21 people safety. Of those figures three people were lives saved by the direct intervention of lifeboat crew based in county Wicklow. These rescues were only possible because of the donations made to the charity by supporters.

Veteran marathon runner Mary Nolan Hickey who ran around the coastline of Ireland last year to raise funds for the RNLI at the age of 65 is helping the RNLI launch Mayday. She raised over €72,000 but felt that she had not yet completed her fundraising for the charity. Mary is now cycling around Ireland counter clockwise on her bike to try and bring her funds raised for the charity to €100,000 and will call into the two North Dublin stations on her final leg of the journey.

For the month of May, the RNLI's Mayday campaign is asking people to 'do their bit, to fund our kit' with the lifesaving charity hoping to raise €780,000 to fund the crucial kit volunteer crews rely on, which includes lifejackets, helmets and the RNLI's yellow wellies. There are over 1,500 volunteer lifeboat crew members in Ireland providing a 24-hour search and rescue service.

RNLI Fundraiser Mary Nolan Hickey is about to embark on her next adventure, which she has named Lap of the Map 2. At the launch Mary said: "People think I am mad doing this but I have unfinished business for the lifeboat crews. I had no idea of the support I would get when I started but then I called into the lifeboat stations, particularly in rural coastal communities and I saw the incredible work the crew are doing and it made up my mind that if I had the energy, I would do this encore, so here I go.

"I'd love people to feel inspired by my story and to do something for Mayday. There are all sorts of ways to fundraise, from wearing wellies to work or doing a sponsored welly walk, to holding a bake sale or doing a sponsored cycle ride. Anyone can register for a free fundraising pack by visiting RNLI.org/Mayday."



Mary Hickey pictured with members of Arklow RNLI as she begins her 'Lap of the Map 2' - a cycle around Ireland, in aid of the RNLI

Gail Vote Number 1 DUNNE

Cllr. Gail Dunne
asks for your support
in the forthcoming
local elections.

Fianna Fáil candidate
in the East Area

(Wicklow Town
to Roundwood)



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CHARGING POINTS NEEDED

A number of councillors and election candidates are calling for electric charging points in Greystones and North Wicklow.

A €20 million investment from the Government will provide 50 charging hubs across the country along motorways and national roads. Fifty other already installed charging points are to be upgraded as part of the plan. However, there are currently no charging points in Greystones, while there are often queues to use the charging points in Bray.

Cllr Jennifer Whitmore has launched an online petition calling on the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment to include the Greystones District in the new round of electric vehicle (EV) charging points to be installed across the country.

Cllr Whitmore said "currently there is no EV charging point in the entire Greystones Municipal District which has a population of 26,000. People in Greystones are very environmentally aware and have said it to me at the doors that they are disappointed there's no charging point in the area. It is proving to be a barrier to people signing up to an EV car."

"Currently there are over 650 ESB standard public charging points and 78 fast chargers across the country. It would make sense that populated places like Greystones would be included in the next round. However, the Minister has confirmed that a final list of locations to receive new charging points has not yet been finalised. For that reason, I have launched an online petition and would encourage everyone to add their name so that Greystones won't be left out. Who knows when more funding will be provided for EV charging points. We simply cannot afford to wait."

Also calling for electric chargers for Greystones, Cllr Derek Mitchell said "Greystones is probably the largest town in Ireland without any public charging points. A scheme to upgrade the ones in other towns will not cover Greystones, if you don't have it, you can't get it, A Catch 22 situation! I have written to Minister Bruton and asked for this to be sorted and gather some changes will be made in a couple of months which will help. Currently the Council would have to get approval from ComReg (Commission for Communications Regulation) as an approved reseller of electricity if they charge. I have also written to the Chief Executives of Aldi & Lidl to ask them to install some in their stores in Greystones as I see that Lidl has them in 20 stores in Ireland."

Alice O'Donnell, Fine Gael local election candidate for Greystones, said "Greystones has a high rate of electric vehicle ownership. It also has a large number of apartments. People who live in apartments can have difficulty in charging an electric car. At a time when many are trying to live in a more sustainable way they should be supported to do so."

Independent candidate for the Bray West ward Rory O'Connor said "There are huge swathes of North Wicklow that have no access to charging points, which for people who are thinking of going electric, the lack of infrastructure makes it completely unfeasible. Last week, I was at a fast charger in Bray and there were four cars queuing for one charger."

Wicklow non-profit organisations received €62m from Government in 2018

Non-profit organisations in Co. Wicklow, including charities, received €62 million from the Government in 2018 according to the third annual analysis of the Third Sector in Ireland released by Benefacts, a nonprofit company, funded by the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform, the Ireland Funds and revenues from services to data users in the Public, Private and Third Sectors.

There are 764 non-profit organisations in County Wicklow. Of these, 220 reported receiving €62m in Government funding. These 220 organisations employ 2238 people. Overall reported income for County Wicklow was €118m in 2017.

The report was launched on April 17th by Sean Canney, Minister of State for Natural Resources, Community Affairs and Digital Development and it draws on all of the data available from the public filings of nearly 30,000 nonprofits, as at the end of Q1 2019.

The Benefacts Database of Irish Nonprofits is the only comprehensive source of up-to-date information on all of Ireland's registered nonprofits including Charities.

Speaking at the launch, Mr Sean Canney TD said "I would like to acknowledge the very important work undertaken by Benefacts, as reflected in this third annual analysis of Ireland's not for profit sector. The inclusion of data from the Public Participation Networks is particularly welcome, given the on-going growth in PPN membership supported by my Department and the local authorities."




Pictured: Lysset Tormey from Bray was at Bray Retail Park for the 'eggciting' and unique Easter egg hunt and family fun day.

New 'Rapid Delivery' homes in Newtown and Arklow

Thirty-four new local authority homes are to be built in Newtownmountkennedy and Arklow, the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government has announced.

The 'Rapid Delivery' homes will be funded under the Department's 'Local Authority Housing Capital Programme. The builds will get underway shortly in Mountain View in Newtownmountkennedy (27 units) and Sheehan Court in Arklow (7 units). The total cost of the projects is €7,358,831.

Andrew Doyle, Wicklow TD and Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, with responsibility for Food, Forestry and Horticulture, says "At a time when accommodation and housing is top of everyone's agenda, this is great news for Newtownmountkennedy and Arklow. Last year, 8,400 homes, including 4,250 new builds were added to the active social housing stock and this number will increase to 9,540, with 63% new builds. It is good to see that Wicklow I at the heart of this investment, as we have a duty and responsibility to ensure that all of our citizens have a home. This year, €2.4bn will be spent across all of our housing programmes - an increase of 26% - and I will work to ensure that Wicklow, and the other counties across Leinster remain a priority for this investment."




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Pictured: Panellists for Oriderm Bray for the last ten years, Liz Archer, Katherine Challacombe and Sonia Jakob at the 10-year anniversary celebration of Oriderm Research & Development Centre in Bray Business Park.

'Bus stop causing a blind spot for locals on the Southern Cross Road'

Local election Independent candidate for Bray West Rory O'Connor has written to Wicklow County Council requesting a review of the safety of bus stop number 7364, at the entrance of Belmont estate on the Southern Cross.

This follows correspondence between the NTA and O'Connor, who said they require a direction notice from the Council. The matter was raised after a number of locals voiced concern that stopping buses are causing a blind spot on the busy road.

The NTA is in the midst of a major nationwide bus re-organisation, Bus Connects, which aims to reform the network of bus routes to provide a more efficient network through enlarged corridors. The Belmont stop will form part of the proposed new 301 bus service, which will run from Kilcoole to Dublin City Centre via Greystones, and stop at the Southern Cross, Cherrywood and UCD. It will replicate the existing 84x route. However, a number of local

concerns continue to persist about the future of bus connections from North Wicklow to Dublin.

Rory O'Connor said: "I've written to Wicklow County Council requesting they review Belmont bus stop's proximity to the entrance of the estate and to examine if it's creating a blind spot when cars are overtaking. This was brought to my attention by a number of concerned locals who just want extra space to allow them to exit the estate safely."

"It's really important that the bus stop is still within a very short walk for people in Riddlesford, Belmont, Swanbrook and Hollybrook. I believe there's a safe and simple solution to this that will benefit everyone."

FORTUNE CALLS FOR CLARIFICATION ON CHARLESLAND SCHOOL

Independent councillor Tom Fortune is calling for clarification on proposed new 2nd level school planned for Charlesland and promised for 2021.

This is coming up on the door steps, there is pressure on up to 400 places for 2021 according to concerned parents. Parents need to know what is happening," he said.

Cllr Fortune was speaking at his recent re-election campaign launch last in Kilcoole Community Centre.

At the launch, Cllr Fortune spoke about issues and achievements over the last five years.

"Over the past five years so much has been achieved; a new community centre, new playgrounds, new footpaths across Greystones/Kilcoole and Newcastle, the Delgany and Killincarrig village improvement plans, School development in Kilcoole/ Greystones and Charlesland. There was a lot of tree maintenance across the district, and improvement to local bus and train services."

Cllr Fortune thanked the local district engineer for all his co-operation in completing a very busy schedule of work. He also talked of issues that require urgent attention, some at local level and some at national level.

"The proposed housing development in Kilcoole

is an issue because of the way it is planned. The application seeks to exit on to the main street, which is the heart of the village and a busy regional road. This is crazy and not what was planned in the original plan. This will destroy Kilcoole if allowed proceed as planned."

He said he "cannot accept that a proper traffic survey was done, certainly not at the right time of the day. Board Planeala is not even listening to Wicklow county council, so what is going on?"

Cllr Fortune talked about the housing crisis and the serious issue of homelessness, saying it's "a scandal and it's



Cllr. Tom Fortune

wrecking people's lives. Government policy is totally at fault here. The absolute debacle of the data centre project in kilpedder poses a lot of questions. Why is it not getting the support that should be given to it?" He also spoke of his annoyance at the way the

'Rocks' in Priestnewtown is "allowed to be destroyed, and the issue of flooding in Hollywell, Kilcoole.

Cllr Fortune also talked about better local government and the importance of independent councillors on local councils. "There is urgent need to take back the control the major parties have on local councils," he said.

Cllr Fortune praised the tidy towns groups in Kilcoole, Greystones, Newcastle and Delgany for the great work that they do, and encouraged all candidates to do what tidy towns groups have asked and not put up posters in town and villages.

Killincarrig Road residents call for more parking

Fianna Fáil local election candidate for Greystones Municipal District Elaine Willis has been contacted by many residents living on Killincarrig Road, Greystones, about the lack of on-street parking for residents.

Willis said, "something needs to be done for the residents living along Killincarrig Road, Greystones as they have been finding it more and more difficult to find parking spaces outside their own homes as the population of the town grows.

"Residents have no off-street parking and as such depend on there being

parking spaces on the road. They pay for an annual parking permit; however, they find it increasingly difficult to park especially at weekends and Sunday's in particular.

"I have been told that people come and park early on Sunday mornings and take the DART off to town for the day. This is very difficult for residents

with young children and the elderly going about their daily business.

"I have had ongoing contact with Greystones Municipal District about this situation and I am happy to say, that they are working on trying to resolve this situation for residents of Killincarrig Road," concluded Willis.

'Rural areas of Wicklow abandoned without National Broadband Plan'

Bray Labour Party local election candidate Ian McGahon has described the continuing lack of a National Broadband Plan as "a continuing travesty" for towns and villages in rural Wicklow.

Commenting on the issue McGahon said "Over the last few weeks I have been canvassing rural areas in Glencree, Kilmacanogue and Enniskerry. The lack of broadband availability in these areas has been raised with me a number of times. Some people live a few metres away from the broadband connections put up by telecom companies but still cannot access it and they are extremely frustrated by this. Many people living in rural areas of Wicklow badly need reliable broadband for work purposes and of course to communicate with friends and family.

"I have contacted my colleague Sean Sherlock TD to press this matter further. The abandoned government promises to deliver the National Broadband are just completely unacceptable at this stage. Wicklow cannot wait any longer. This Fine Gael government cannot defend a service where people have to walk 100s of meters away from their homes to access a broadband reception. We need action from this government not empty promises. I hope to prioritise this issue if I am elected to Wicklow County Council," concluded McGahon.



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'Number of secondary school places is unacceptable'

Independent local election Candidate Mags Crean has called the lack of secondary school places in the Greystones and Kilcoole area "totally unacceptable".

Crean, running in the Greystones Electoral Area, said "As a parent with a young family, and a daughter on a waiting list for a local secondary school, I know first-hand the negative impact of bad town planning and ineffective forward-thinking.

"The Government and the council have known for years that our infrastructure simply cannot cope with the rising house numbers. The sad lack of sec-

ondary school places facing us in 2021 is something the Department should have been aware of, and indeed has been aware of for a long number of years. We simply cannot afford to do things day-by-day anymore, as the present system is just not working.

"I know this situation well, as my daughter is on a waiting list for a local secondary school for 2021 - and my own family is faced with

uncertainty until we know whether she has a place. My family's experience has shown me just how much Greystones has been neglected.

"Despite the notion that the area is well off and well catered for, many young families are trying to balance work and family and do not have the quality of life that they deserve. Facing into a future, not knowing if your child can have a school place in their own community

is not fair on these families - and if there's one thing history has taught us in this country, it's that we should always invest in our children."

UCD Professor and leading expert on equality, Kathleen Lynch, will launch Mags Crean's plan for new values in local politics on 1st May at 7:30pm in the Hotspot Music Club, Greystones. All are welcome to attend.



Pictured: Cllr Chris Fox, Cllr Shay Cullen and Minister Andrew Doyle at the Fine Gael race night fundraiser in Lynham's of Laragh

Meet the local election candidates for your area

Co Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN) and the Disability Federation of Ireland is inviting communities to 'Meet the Candidates' events which will be held in each of the five Municipal Districts of County Wicklow.

There are over 50 candidates running in the Local Elections in Co Wicklow this May.

These candidates are seeking positions that could make a real difference in the lives of Co Wicklow PPN and Disability Federation Ireland member groups, and the communities in which they live.

Therefore, Co Wicklow PPN and Disability Federation Ireland have invited the candidates to meetings to give communities the opportunity to meet the people that could have an influence on the policies and proposals that will have a direct impact on their lives.

Meet the Candidate Meetings start at 7pm sharp as follows:

Arklow Municipal District Monday 29th April in Glenart College; Bray Municipal District Wednesday 1st May in Cornerstone at The Well (opposite the Royal Hotel); Greystones Municipal District Tuesday 7th May in

Greystones Tennis Club; Baltinglass Municipal District Wednesday 8th May in Shillelagh Court House and Tuesday 14th May in Imaal Hall Dunlavin; Wicklow Municipal District Wednesday 15th May in De La Salle Pastoral Centre Wicklow Town.

Co Wicklow PPN is a network of 300 community groups covering the 5 Municipal Districts of Co Wicklow. One of the functions of the PPN is to promote and encourage citizen engagement

in local plans, policies and decision-making and ensure that community voices are heard.

The Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI) was set up to make Ireland fairer for people with disabilities and to strengthen their voices. For more information and to book a seat Tel Helen 087 189 5145, Grainne 086 048 7434 or Pierce 086 130 1515 or Email county-wicklowppn@gmail.com, piercerichardson@disability-federation.ie.

FF launch Arklow campaign

The Arklow Fianna Fáil local election campaign was officially launched on Friday 12th April in The Midway Lounge, Arklow.

The launch was chaired by Séamus McCormack, Cathaoirleach of Arklow Fianna Fáil and a great crowd of local members, friends and supporters assembled to hear the speakers.

First to address the crowd was the Fianna Fáil candidate for Ireland South in the European elections Cllr Malcolm Byrne from Gorey. He was followed then by the two Wicklow Fianna Fáil TDs Deputy Pat Casey and Deputy Stephen Donnelly.

Then each of the three Fianna Fáil candidates who are contesting the Arklow local electoral area addressed the crowd. This was done in alphabetical order; Cllr Tommy Annesley, Cllr Pat Fitzgerald and Cllr Pat Kennedy.

Finally Cathaoirleach Séamus McCormack closed the meeting and invited all assembled downstairs for refreshments and musical entertainment.

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Wednesdays at 5:30 and 7:30pm
Call Clare on 087 1722536

BLESSINGTON
Blessington Further Education Centre
Wednesdays at 5:30 and 7:30pm
Call Sinead on 085 1224626

GREYSTONES
All 3 groups meet here:
Greystones, Eire Og GAA Club, Mill Road, Greystones
Tuesdays at 5:30 and 7:30pm
Wednesdays at 9:30 and 11:30am
Call Penny on 087 7093841
Wednesdays at 7:30pm
Call Patricia on 083 4434288

TINAHELY
Tinahely Community Hall
Monday's at 5:30 and 7:30pm
Call Tony on 087 1785384

BRAY
Coffee Delights, IDA Business Park Southern Cross, Bray
Wednesdays at 9:30am
Saturdays at 9:30am
Call Grainne O'Toole on 086 4661566
Coffee Delights, IDA Business Park Southern Cross, Bray
Wednesdays at 5:30 and 7:30pm
Call Alison on 085 2727 541
Bray Wheelers Clubhouse, Next to St Killians School, School Rd, Off the Boghall Road, Bray
Thursdays at 9:30am, 5:30 and 7:30pm
Fridays at 7:30 and 9:30am
Call Lesley on 087 1489110

KILCOOLE
Byrne's Pub, Main Street, Kilcoole
Thursdays at 5:30 and 7:30pm
Call Patricia on 083 4434288
Byrne's Pub, Main Street, Kilcoole
Saturdays at 9:30am
Call Gloria on 083 3922395

NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY
Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy
Mondays at 5:30 and 7:30pm
Call Jackie on 083 0353633

WICKLOW TOWN
All 4 groups meet here:
Upstairs in Ernie's Bar Market Square, Wicklow
Wednesdays at 9:30 and 11:30am
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Wednesdays at 5:30 and 7:30pm
Thursdays at 8 and 10am
Call Grainne Reynolds 0871470704

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Senator Gerry Horkan, Anne Gregory, Pat Casey TD and Stephen Donnelly TD are pictured at the launch of Anne Gregory's local election campaign last week in the Parkview Hotel. Anne is running as a Fianna Fail candidate in the Wicklow Municipal District.

Paid parental leave scheme welcomed

Fine Gael local election candidate for Greystones, Alice O'Donnell, has welcomed the announcement of a new scheme which will allow parents to avail of two weeks leave and benefit to spend with their new babies during their first year. The scheme will commence in November.

O'Donnell said "I have met lots of new parents while canvassing locally and many have expressed the wish to take extra leave to spend time with their new baby. This is the start of a plan to increase paid leave to 7 weeks over the next three years, on a phased basis and will be a great benefit to parents, especially those who cannot afford to take unpaid leave. It will be paid at the same rate as Maternity Benefit and Paternity Benefit - €245 per week. Some employers may opt to top up the payment to full salary for their employees.

Parents who are self-employed are also eligible for this benefit. I particularly welcome the fact that the leave is non-transferable as it will encourage new dads to spend extra time at home with their babies.

"This new scheme is part of the Government commitment to increase paid parental leave in the first year of a child's life. It will provide working parents with further opportunity to spend more time with their baby in that first year of life.

"This paid leave is in addition to existing maternity, paternity and adoptive leave entitlements and it is estimated that up to 60,000 parents could benefit from the scheme in a full year. The leave can be taken within 52 weeks of the birth of the child or in the case of an adoption, from the date of placement of the child."



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'Slip road from N11 onto Vale Road in Arklow must be prioritised by Council'

Arklow Sinn Féin representative and local election candidate John Kelly has said that the construction of a slip road on and off the N11 to the Vale Road in Arklow is critically needed. Kelly has called on Wicklow County Council to commission a feasibility study to allow for a funding application to be made to the Department of Transport and Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

Kelly said "Arklow is a fantastic town with massive amounts of potential that needs to be unlocked. Hopefully An Bord Pleanála will be making a decision on the new sewage treatment plant very soon, this will go a long way to unlocking the potential Arklow has, however traffic in the town is still a major problem and it needs to be addressed to ensure that the town's potential can be fully unlocked.

"I believe that key to addressing the traffic problem would be the construction of a new slip road on and off the N11 to the Vale Road. Currently people travelling to

Woodenbridge or Aughrim have to come through Arklow. This is unnecessarily bringing cars into the town and adding to the congestion. It's really unbelievable that this slip road wasn't constructed in the 1990s when the Arklow Bypass was being constructed."

Kelly went on to say "There are also a considerable number of new houses under construction on the Vale Road, this will also add to the traffic problem, the most logical thing to address the issue is to construct the new slip road to take cars out of Arklow. This was one of the main proposals in my colleague Deputy

John Brady's Unlocking Arklow's Potential document which he published last year."

Deputy Brady said "When I published my Unlocking Arklow's Potential document I contacted the Minister for Transport and asked him about funding for the construction of the slip road. The Minister informed me that no application for funding has been forthcoming from the local authority for the project and that a feasibility study should first be carried out.

"I have met with the CEO of Wicklow County Council on the issue and have pushed for the study to be carried out as a priority; I believe this study could also look at the issue of a port access road. The County Manager committed to exploring our proposals and the carrying out of a study."

Concluding, John Kelly said "The planning needs to start immediately to ensure that Arklow can grow and the entire community benefit. Key infrastructural projects such as this need to be pushed on now and lessons learned from the 25-year sewage treatment plant saga. I will continue to push this project as I see it as key to unlocking Arklow's potential."

Chambers Ireland launches Local Government Manifesto

Chambers Ireland is launching its Local Government manifesto and calls on voters to ask their candidates the hard questions about the long-term future of their areas: How candidates intend to deliver sustainable infrastructure and housing for their communities? What will they do to support local economic development? And, how will their policies help adapt our economy to decarbonisation?

Chambers Ireland is a network of businesses with a geographic reach that spans the cities and towns of Ireland. Chambers have been active in Ireland for over 200 years. Chambers Ireland Chief Executive Ian Talbot calls on all voters to get engaged and to vote on 24 May, saying "We've come a long way since the last election in 2014. Our economy is growing and we're almost at full employment, so while prosperity might have returned, the sustainability of our economy must now be the focus of our attention.

"The National Development Plan sets out a long-term view on how to build a better future for Ireland. Our cities and towns need tens of thousands of new homes. We need to build better places to live and do business. Better planning and long-term thinking will improve the quality of life and quality of local economies around the country. The decisions that elected members of our local authorities make in the coming years will be central to realising this ambition.

"We in Chambers Ireland are calling on all voters to vote. Our local authorities matter, and their decisions can't be left up to someone else. We call on all candidates to take the long-term view and help build a better Ireland."

Chambers Ireland calls on candidates for local government to support the long-term vision for Ireland and consider the following:

- Our approach to the urban environment needs a revolution, we need integrated housing, transport, and civic spaces which prioritise the needs of the people living and working there.
- Our local authorities need to co-operate to guide the development of our cities and towns so that policy decisions are coherent at the regional level and are consistent over multiple election cycles.
- All our regions need to benefit from the production of green energy. If rural Ireland is to benefit from our decarbonising economy, it will need help to move beyond the traditional agri-food sector and into innovative new industries.
- Ireland needs to work harder to facilitate

women remaining in or returning to the workforce. The network of Local Enterprise Offices and other Local Government structures need to develop strategies that will support

women in their areas. - If we are to have thriving local economies, our local authorities need to have procurement policies which look towards quality and long-term sustainability.

Residents of Vevay Road 'fed up' with footpath condition

Residents of the Vevay Road in Bray are "fed up" with the council's lack of action on footpaths in the area, says Fianna Fail local election candidate Chris Walsh.

Walsh said "People are tripping on them on a near daily basis, and it's only a matter of time before someone has a serious fall. I was canvassing on the Vevay Road last week and the one resounding problem for people was the condition of the footpaths in the area. People are having to constantly watch for cracks and stones that are ajar. This is not acceptable and requires immediate action from the council. I highlighted this to council officials last year about the condition of footpaths on Sidmonton Road and this has yet to be fixed.

"I heard from one woman who had a fall a number of years ago which required surgery to fix a resulting problem - this is a plain disregard for locals' well-being. It is the people who elect the council. The council is there to represent people and listen to their needs and this just hasn't been done. It is only a matter of time before there is another serious fall. The council would be better to use their funding to fix the problem once and for all, rather than face an insurance claim for being at fault for the fall," concluded Walsh.

Tender documents for Kilmac Road Safety Scheme to be published

The tenders for the Kilmacanoge Safety Scheme will be published in the coming days. The news follows discussions John Brady TD has had with the project team.

Welcoming the news Deputy Brady said "After a number of delays I'm delighted that the tender documents will finally be published for the Kilmacanogue Road Safety scheme in the coming days. The plan is to construct a parallel service road going southbound. This safety improvement will separate the traffic before the southbound junction, similar to the N4 at Lucan. This will stop traffic exiting the petrol station directly into fast moving traffic. This would have involved placing a barrier between the service road and the N11 itself. This would force all traffic coming out of the petrol station up the slip road for Kilmacanogue before rejoining the N11 on the opposite side of the bridge.

"There have been a number of delays in



John Brady, TD

publishing the tender documents; this is due to the complex nature of the project. When the tender is published on eTenders in the coming days, contractors will have 36 days to submit tender submissions. It is hoped that once the contract is awarded work would commence by midsummer. Its anticipated that work will take between 6-9 months to complete."

Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien said "Once complete the new parallel service road will greatly improve road safety in the area and this has to be welcomed. I am concerned however that no provision has been made for pedestrians to walk along the stretch of N11 between Kilmacanoge and the Bray south exit. The council has committed to constructing a green way linking the Southerncross Rd to Kilmacanoge. These plans must progress swiftly to ensure that the safety of pedestrians and cyclists is safeguarded too."

Deputy Brady also stated that over 3,000 letters have been delivered to land owners who have land along the 22km stretch of the N11 that is currently being examined as part of plans to improve the M11/N11 road from the

M50 to Coyne's Cross.

Deputy Brady said "The issuing of the 3000 letters this week to landowners along the 22km stretch of the M11/N11 is part of the site environmental and ecological process. The letter is informing landowners that over the next number of months ecologists will be carrying out a walk over of the lands deemed important as part of the M11/N11 improvement scheme."

Brady concluded "It doesn't necessarily mean that the land will be required for the scheme, but that it has an ecological importance and that it must be mapped as part of the planning process. It's planned to hold weekly clinics in the area to address any concerns that landowners may have."



Broadcaster Martin King, wildlife expert Eanna ni Lamha, Claire Fulham and Colin Heslin are pictured at the Way with Words talk in Arklow Library

'Target main street if we want to rejuvenate Bray'

Bray Fine Gael Local Election Candidate, Ned Whelan has said if he is elected he will emphasise action to develop the main street of the town in order to benefit the greater Bray area.

Speaking on the issue, he said: "I have been on the doors for many months now, speaking to residents and really engaging on the issues that people in Bray see as key to the future of the town. The vacancy rates on the main street is a very significant issue that is raised with me time and again. Thankfully the town is developing but it is vital that it develops in a way that protects the main street as the heart of the town. It is vital that we increase occupancy on our main street to ensure that we

have a bustling town centre.

"If elected, I will make developing our main street



Edward Whelan

a priority issue and propose we take a strategic approach to benefit the whole community. A strategy for Bray main street will allow us to target key areas that would help the town to be more attractive to businesses and in turn, to consumers and tourists. As a Councillor for Bray, I would : - Work to secure Government funding to incentivise businesses to move into vacant units on the main street; - Examine the possible benefits of temporarily lowering the commercial rates for busi-

nesses in the town; - Seek funding for a competition that would reward well presented shop-fronts on the main streets; - Support our fantastic Tidy Towns Committee in their work to improve our street scapes; - Develop a traffic plan that deals with congestion in the town centre to make coming into the town itself more attractive. I am passionate about developing Bray as a town that people love to visit and I see the restoration of our main streets as key to this."

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Early Education

YOUR GUIDE TO CHILDCARE AND PRESCHOOL IN WICKLOW

A new National Childcare Scheme is being rolled out with two new types of supports available to parents: A Universal Subsidy and an Income Assessed subsidy. The scheme is set to launch in October and will replace all previous targeted childcare support programmes with a single user-friendly scheme. The first payments under the scheme will be made in November.

The National Childcare Scheme, the first ever statutory entitlement to financial support for childcare, will support families with children aged between 24 weeks and 15 years who attend participating Tusla registered childcare providers, including child minders. It aims to improve children's outcomes, support life-long learning, reduce child poverty and reduce the cost of quality childcare.

The Universal Subsidy is available to all families with children under the age of 3 years, as well as children aged over three years who have not yet qualified for the free preschool programme. It provides 50c per hour towards the cost of a registered childcare place for up to a maximum of 40 hours per week. It is not means tested.

The Income Assessed Subsidy is available to families with children aged between 24 weeks and



Capital funding announcement

Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr Katherine Zappone T.D., has announced that capital funding will be available to service providers who sign up to the new National Childcare Scheme.

The funding will allow service providers to purchase ICT support which will assist them in recording and reporting children's attendance. Announcing the funding, Minister Zappone noted: "The National Childcare Scheme has been designed to be flexible and responsive, with families' needs and the business requirements of our dedicated childcare service providers in mind. We know that family life happens, and the Scheme's attendance rules recognise and respond to this."

"I also want to make it as easy and efficient as possible for providers to meet their obligations in relation to recording and reporting attendance. This ICT support grant, coupled with our new 'one stop shop' template, will do just that, ensuring streamlined administration and more time spent doing the work that really matters - providing quality Early Learning and Care and School Age Childcare to our nation's children."

A standard template for maintaining attendance records will also be made available to providers. This template will meet providers' needs not just

for the National Childcare Scheme but also the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme and Tusla registrations. On the development of the template, Minister Zappone further commented: "This is another important step in supporting providers to meet requirements which are necessary to ensure that public funds are used to support the maximum number of families possible. For the first time, there is a single, coherent document on which they can rely in terms of meeting their attendance recording obligations."

Applications for capital funding are set to open in June and detailed guidelines on the application process will be published on www.ncs.gov.ie in the coming days. Providers can purchase ICT support which meets the eligibility criteria and will be reimbursed for the amount spent up to the maximum amount allowable. A full list of eligibility criteria will be laid out in the application guidelines. The maximum grants will vary depending on the size of the service availing of State supports, and will range from €500 to €2,000.



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15 years. It is means tested and is calculated based on individual circumstances such as level of family income, child's age, and educational stage. A subsidy calculator will be available when the scheme is launched.

The Income Assessed subsidy can be used towards the cost of a registered childcare

place for up to a maximum of 40 hours per week where parents are working, studying or training, or in circumstances where a parent is unavailable to care for a child. For parents who are not working, studying or training, the subsidy will be paid for up to a maximum of 15 hours per week.

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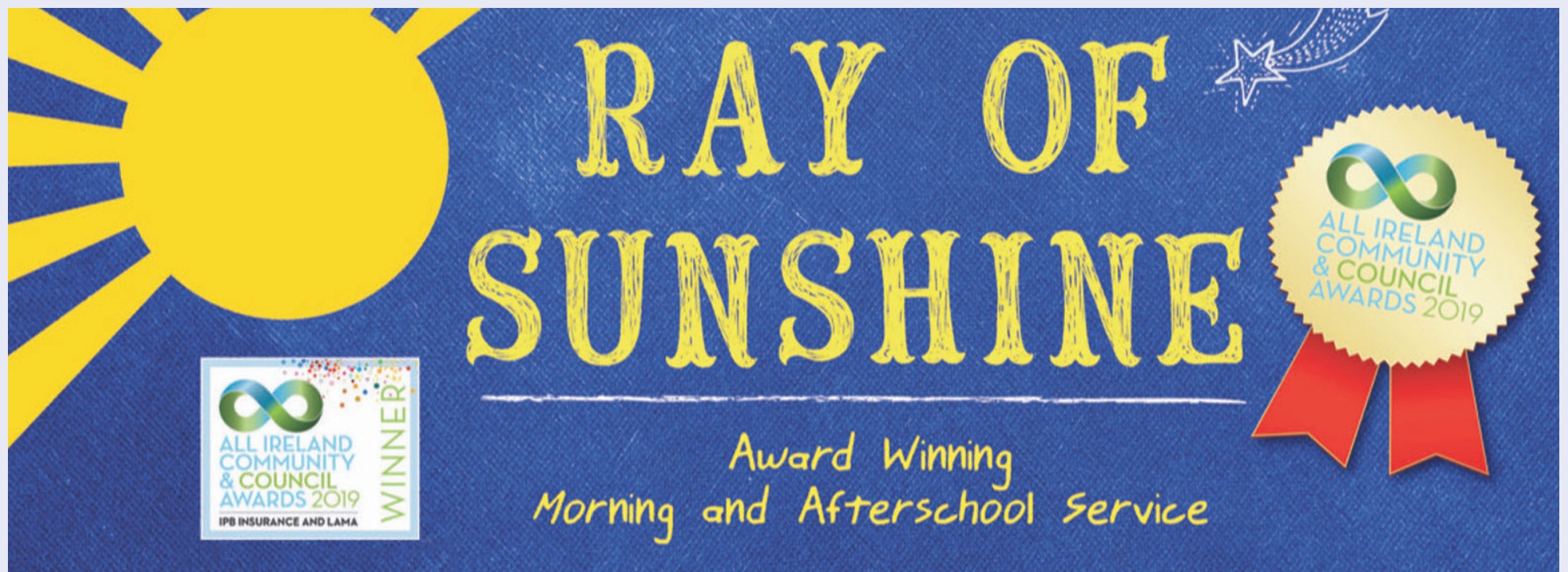
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Ray of Sunshine morning and after-school programme is an after-school service that operates on site in primary schools on an ad-hoc basis, giving parents the flexibility of an ad-hoc service as well as an all year round service. In other words parents booking in only pay for the hours they use so for example, if someone only needs an hour on a Friday that's all they pay for or if they need full-time care we at Ray of sunshine can cater for all hours. We are available all year round, if a parent decides to go on holidays for two weeks and doesn't book in, they are not required to pay for childcare that they are not using. Parents pay for childcare that is being used and no extra with the option of weekly flexibility.

Ray of Sunshine also offers a pickup and drop-off service from home to home and to other activities for an additional rate of E.G €2 pre drop, depending on the distance that is travelled. This means if there is a child sick at home the parent can book in with us and the children who are going to school will be picked up by us, leaving the parent to stay at home and look after the child that is unwell, which from the feedback of our parents is a great relief and assistance to them. If a parent does not drive then Ray of Sunshine can pick the children up and drop them home at the time required. The service is also available for parents who live close to the school but need to either catch an early bus or on rainy days want to get the children collected and dropped straight to the school/ line. Our team do not leave the school grounds until school starts, adding peace of mind to parents and com-

fort to children arriving early, helping to reduce lateness and car congestion.

Ray of sunshine have currently been awarded a silver award for best business working with the community at the All-Ireland County Council awards and is accredited as a five-star business.

Ray of sunshine offer affordable ad-hoc care to families and children of primary school age, with lots of different activities that suit siblings with different tastes or individual children who have different interests and can avail of multiple activities in the one day/afternoon or during any of our camps. Also, the activities are very modern and age appropriate for those children in primary school. This eliminates the stigma that we only cater for younger children and in fact, we actually cater for the ages of 4 years old up to 12 years old. We will always make sure that activities suit the age of the children and with the

multiple choice it means that children will never be bored and will actually enjoy spending their time in the after-school programme socialising with friends. We take each child's interests and likes very seriously and respect each child as an individual. We always like to get to know if a child likes quiet activities or likes to socialise a lot more and we cater for each child's likes with multiple activities. So, there is always something for everybody and we take pride that the children who come to us stay with us long-term and are happy stress-free children.

Ray of Sunshine prides itself in making the after-school service a 'home away from home' environment for children, with a specific chill-out area that consists of sofas, books and just a quiet area for them to relax if needs be.

Ray of Sunshine also provides an eating area for children to have their meals with their friends at a table and discuss the

day, which is great for socialisation, team building and it's also a lovely time for the children to share their feelings and thoughts.

In the next school year, Ray of Sunshine is going to be operating a Forest after-school. This is great for children to learn outdoor activities with our fully trained forest staff. More details on Forest after schools to follow in the next school year.

All our morning and after school services are Department of Education registered and have DCYA reference numbers, which means that at present all our after schools offer subvention care and parents who don't qualify at present for Subvention care can avail of the affordable ad-hoc service.

Any parents/guardians who are availing of subvention care (i.e. parents who have FIS payments, foster parents, carers, social welfare payments, single parents, families who have medical cards, back to work schemes and parents going back to education) can also avail of all-year care through subvention childcare. That means that not only is their school-time care subsidised but also the camps throughout the year are also subsidised. Families who don't qualify at present for the subvention childcare can rest assured that we offer affordable rates and offer

a cap rate on full day care in all our Camps, as well as the ad-hoc service.

In October, there will be a universal subsidy for childcare. Parents are being advised to log on to <https://ncs.gov.ie> and register.

Ray of sunshine are taking names of parents who wish to take advantage of the universal subsidy coming in October and we will be holding places for those children.

The staff at Ray of Sunshine are also very unique in what they bring to our after schools. We have a mix of male and female staff, who cater for all the different activities that are suitable for primary school age.

Our staff members' talents and knowledge consist of:

- Sports coaches
- Fluent Irish speakers & homework assistants
- Bakers
- Art room assistance
- I.T experts (which is great for the older kids as it brings their interests all



together and they have someone who has experience in the world of IT and can help them with lots of interesting projects throughout the year)

- SNA qualifications
- All our full-time staff are fully first aid trained
- Drama coach
- Our drivers offer a pick up and drop off service to other activities and a pick up and drop off home service.

- Garda Vetted (yearly)
- Ray of Sunshine offers a head lice check service in a private clinic and offers all Ray of Sunshine families a special rate for head checks/comb outs, etc. and has two fully trained and certified head lice checkers. This service is fully confidential and any families who require it and are not part of the Ray of Sunshine after-school family can

contact our head lice admin team on 087 711 5105 for more information. We decided to bring this service in to help parents or anyone who has never dealt with head lice, as well as assisting our after-schools in becoming a head lice free zone!

All our after schools and fleet of cars have their own relevant child care insurance.

Our Services

- Breakfast Club (optional)
- Supervised Homework Club
- Fun Activities (art, baking, sports, educational computer games & movies)
- Hourley Rates E5 per hour, also sibling discount available
- Open all year round from 7am till 7pm (closed bank holidays)
- We provide school pick up and drop offs, as well as a pick up and drop off service to other activities available all year round
- After school care centres for children aged from 4 to 12 years old
- Trained onsite childcare providers
- Fully Insured

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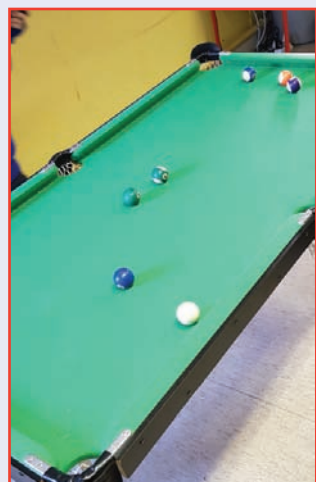
Any school principles, board of management and parent associations who are interested in receiving a presentation from our Ray of Sunshine team are asked to contact the admin office on **087 272 4881** or email our presentation team on suzanne.lros.sales@gmail.com for more information.

Ray of Sunshine morning and after school services Ltd have been working with schools for many years and take pride in our long term relationships with the schools, parents and guardians.

Ray of Sunshine morning and after school services offer a flexible working solution to parents and schools with an open door and inclusion policy. We also provide an excellent opportunity for extra income to schools.

We take away the stress from parents of having to pay large fees for school-age children's childcare and have the children on site in familiar surroundings.

Any parents/guardians interested in looking at the activities and showing their children the activities that we provide at Ray of Sunshine should go to our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/rayofsunshine28/





Pictured: Members of Arklow Municipal District with members of various resident associations of Arklow town at the Arklow Municipal District Awards night. On the night the Cathaoirleach, Cllr Miriam Murphy, along with the other Members of Arklow Municipal District, presented cheques totalling €8,000 to 14 different Resident Associations from the district. The awarding of these annual grants is to recognise all groups who selflessly give their time and talent to the benefit of their community.

Incorrectly fitted child car seats major cause for concern in Wicklow

Research from the Road Safety Authority's 'Check it Fits' Service, which checks child car seats and restraints nationwide for free, has revealed that 4 out of 5 child car seats are incorrectly fitted nationwide. On the service's visits to Wicklow in 2018, 386 seats were checked.

To help address this will be visiting problem, the RSA Wicklow where child 'Check it Fits' service car seat installation

experts will be available to ensure car seats and restraints are correctly fitted. The service takes between 10-15 minutes, is free of charge and offers parents and guardians reassurance that their child is safe while travelling in the car. If your child's car seat or restraint is incorrectly fitted, the 'Check it Fits' experts will advise on how to fix the problem, demonstrate how to fit the restraint correctly and answer any queries participants might have to avoid potential serious or fatal injury in the event of a collision.

The events in Co Wicklow will be taking place at SuperValu on Castle Street in Bray (15th May, 10am-5:30pm); Pettitt's SuperValu on Wexford Road in Arklow (16th May, 10am-5:30pm); and Kenny's SuperValu in Blessington (17th May, 10am-5:30pm). Since October 2013, the RSA's 'Check it Fits' Service has checked over 35,000 child car seats and restraints in Ireland. Worryingly in Ireland, 79% of seats required a major adjustment, of which 3% were deemed not fit for purpose and condemned, meaning they could have caused injury or even death in the event of a collision.

Aisling Sloyan, Senior Road Safety Promotion Officer for the RSA commented "Almost 2 out of 5 children killed are passengers and Garda reports into collisions indicate that 1 in 10 children

were not wearing a seatbelt or using a child restraint in 2014. More recent statistics have shown an increase in child passenger fatalities on the road. The reality is that if a child's car seat isn't fitted correctly, it could lead to a serious or fatal injury in the event of a collision. Having a correctly fitted car seat is a simple measure parents, grandparents and guardians can take to ensure children are safe while travelling by car. I would encourage people to visit the 'Check it Fits' when it comes to Wicklow and give yourself the peace of mind that your children are travelling safely."

Moyagh Murdock, CEO of the RSA, while speaking about the service said "The RSA 'Check it Fits' service is there to provide professional, trustworthy advice to parents and guardians around child car seat safety. Parents all over the country are availing of this service to get practical advice and expert fitting of their car seats. We would advise all parents to ensure that when they buy a new car seat, that they get the seat fitted by an expert. We would also advise that parents to check the label on their car seat to make sure it's appropriate for your child's age, weight and height, to make sure your seat is firmly installed in the car, and to always ensure that your child's harness is fitted snugly for every trip.

"Clothing can affect how the harness fits, so you should use blankets instead of bulky jackets in the winter. This makes sure that the harness is making contact with your child's body and you should check this before every journey."

New sensory garden opens in Marino School

Local garden designer Diarmuid Gavin recently visited Marino Community Special School on the occasion of the official opening of a new sensory garden.

Marino also welcomed representatives from Sunbeam House Trust, without whom the development of the sensory garden would not have been possible. Enable Ireland Services, patron of Marino School, provided the school with the site to develop the sensory garden space. Greentouch Landscapes designed the garden with the student Council and gave generously of their time and resources to complete the project.

Sunbeam House Trust gave a generous donation to Marino School to fund the project. The development of a garden was a fitting tribute to Lucinda Sullivan, founder of Sunbeam House Trust, who had a particular interest in gardening and hosted many annual garden shows in the old Sunbeam House on Vevay Road.

The provision of a sensory garden space in Marino is hugely beneficial for all students, as this garden will allow students to enjoy a calm, relaxing outdoor space and also, from a practical perspective, will enable students to grow, cook and hopefully, eat some of the garden produce.



Pictured are Barry Murphy (Greentouch Landscapes), Rosalie Chooi (Sunbeam House Trust), Diarmuid Gavin, Delwen Bowler (Sunbeam House Trust), and Oonagh Kenny (Principal, Marino School) at the new sensory garden at Marino School.

Wicklow County Swift Survey

BirdWatch Ireland HQ are conducting a full Wicklow County Swift Survey this year.

Ricky Whelan, who gave a presentation to BirdWatch Ireland last September on the work he has been engaged in with communities across Leinster to help to improve the fortunes of this iconic summer migrant, will be coordinating the survey which will run from mid-May through to mid-August. In the meantime, please let BirdWatch Ireland know if you have had Swifts nesting locally in your town or village in the past few years so that they can pass on that info to Ricky to help with his planning - just use the Branch email birdwatchwicklow@gmail.com.

Voices from across the water

A concert featuring Southeastern University Chamber Singers & Women's Choir from Florida, USA with Wicklow Community Choir takes place in St. Patrick's Church, Greystones on Monday 13th May at 8pm.

The programme includes classical choral pieces, Songs from the Shows, folk tunes, Irish melodies and more. Admission is €10 at the door. All proceeds will go towards activities for adults with physical disabilities at Open Door. Contact 01 2867123 for further details.

Kilcoole Policing Clinic

The Kilcoole Policing Clinic takes place each Wednesday evening in Kilcoole Community Centre, from 6pm to 8pm.

Garda Corbett and/or Garda Thompson will be in attendance. Drop in for crime prevention advice, get a form stamped, and most other Garda station services.

Details from Garda Molly Corbett; molly.a.corbett@garda.ie or Garda Alan Thompson; alan.m.thompson@garda.ie.

WICKLOW'S 'BIG HELLO' COMMUNITY WEEKEND

The Big Hello is a National Community Weekend in May celebrating the great community spirit in Ireland. So far, 23 The Big Hello! events are scheduled to take place in the county.

As part of this initiative and to celebrate 35 years of serving the community, Open Door will welcome members of the community to visit the Centre on the Vevay Road in Bray. This is an opportunity to see the type of work that takes place at Open Door and the support available to adults with physical disabilities. All are welcome on Saturday 4th May, 11.00 am - 2.00 pm. Refreshments will be provided. Call Suzanne on 01

2867123 for further details.

"We are delighted to open up our doors to the local community and look forward to sharing what we have been up to for the past year," said Suzanne Cox from Open Door.

The Tinahely Men's Shed will host a coffee morning as part of the 'Big Hello' Initiative. The community coffee morning will take place on Saturday May 4th from

11.00am to 3pm and will include a brick-a-brack stall and raffle. Other Big Hello events will be taking place in Wicklow Sailing Club; Gaelscoil Inbhir Mhoir; Wicklow SPCA; and Shillelagh Coolboy GAA.

In order to support local events, Minister Ring allocated €10,000 to each of the 31 Local Authorities and asked them to allocate funding to The Big Hello! events in their areas.

'Flooding issues need to be resolved on Victoria Road Greystones'

Cathaoirleach of Greystones Cllr Nicola Lawless has said that the issue of flooding and raw sewage pouring onto Victoria Road in Greystones after heavy rain is "disgraceful and needs to be immediately addressed".

Councillor Lawless said "Only recently we had very heavy rain and the drain on Victoria road could not handle the capacity of the storm waters and businesses and residents' homes got some flooding and even some had raw sewage in their gardens. This is an issue which has been going on for years, and has never been resolved.

"The area gets flooded at least once a year and the pipe that is there is far too narrow and is unable to take the capacity of waste water and storm water during heavy downpours. The last up grade on the sys-

tem was back in 1996. One of the issues is the storm drains are also connected into the one pipe, so it is no wonder that we get continued flooding. I had residents on to me last month to say the manhole in their garden had over flowed because of the overflow on Victoria road and they had raw sewage in the garden as a result of this and this was not the first time."

Cllr Lawless continued "I have contact Irish Water to see what their plans are for this area as it is the lowest point in Greystones and with development continuing

in Greystones this needs to be address urgently. Irish Water has done a preliminary assessment of this part of the catchment over the last 2 years in conjunction with the new development and flooding issues in Redford park. They said there are number of upgrades being provided by developers to allow their connections proceed and ensure no further impact on the flooding issues. Irish Water will be implementing a full Drainage Area Plan for Greystones which is very welcomed. As for Victoria Road immediate

action to develop a longer-term solution to the issues are to implement better storm water management in the catchment and assess the impact on the existing Victoria road pumping station."

Cllr Lawless concluded "I very much welcome the plan from Irish Water and I m pleased to see they will be taking action to sort this issue out, but it can't come quick enough for the residents who live there. I will continue to engage with Irish Water on this issue going forward."

Green Ribbon Walk at Coillte Forest Park

The 7th annual "Green Ribbon - Let's Talk & Walk" series of walks are taking place throughout Ireland at Coillte Forest Parks and trails during May 2019 to promote the Green Ribbon and raise awareness to improve mental health.

Just like the pink ribbon became a symbol for breast cancer awareness the Green Ribbon has been established as the international symbol for mental health awareness and has been introduced to Ireland by See Change.

The national Let's Talk & Walk - Green Ribbon walks are hosted by Coillte in collaboration with IFA, Mental Health Ireland and See Change.

The Wicklow event is hosted by Coillte in collaboration with Wicklow IFA at Avondale Forest Park in Rathdrum at 3.00pm on Sunday, May 5th 2019. The forest park is 2 kilometres south of Rathdrum on the L2149.

The event provides an opportunity for friends, families and communities to connect with one another whilst being mindful of their own and others' mental health and wellbeing enjoying two things inherent to us in Ireland....Nature and Talking!"

There are a variety of walks to suit everybody including a buggy friendly walk, mindfulness in the woods and a mental health talk, there is also playground and face painters for young and not so young to enjoy.

We are all keen to drive the health agenda encouraging people to enjoy the walks in forest parks and trails throughout the country which can deliver a range of physical and mental health benefits to the people who use them.

There will be refreshments after the walk. This is not a fundraising event, it is an awareness campaign. Car parking is free of charge and All are welcome to attend.



Pictured at the launch of the Green Ribbon Walk are L-R Charlie Burke (Coillte), Hazel Brennan (See Change) Jim Daly (Minister For Mental Health), Joe Healy (IFA), Jill O'Herlihy (Mental Health Ireland) and Caroline Farrell (IFA)



Ellie and Lexie Brady and Lucy Plunkett from Bray were at Bray Retail Park over their Easter break for the 'eggcciting' and unique Easter egg hunt and family fun day.

Irish Bank Notes- an Inside Story

Kilmacanogue History Society presents a talk on "Irish Bank Notes- an Inside Story" in the Glenview Hotel on Tuesday May 7th at 8pm.

Speaker is Louis O'Byrne the former Head of the Irish Banknote Printing Works and Mint. He was centrally involved in the changeover to the Euro and is currently Chair of the Central Bank of Ireland's Numismatic Advisory Committee. Although we use our banknotes on a daily basis, very few of us have actually looked at them closely. But if we examine them in detail they reveal a surprisingly broad and rich tapestry of our history and culture. The talk will look at our history from this very different perspective.

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WE DELIVER!



Chloe Purcell and Erika Egan are pictured at Anne Gregory's campaign launch in the Parkview Hotel last week.

EU Delegation visits Wicklow Uplands to see SUAS Project

Wicklow Uplands Council's SUAS Project recently hosted a field trip for a delegation of 60 participants from 22 of the EU's member states, who were keen to learn and observe first-hand, the workings of the Wicklow and Dublin uplands based EIP-AGRI project.

Their visit to Co. Wicklow included a presentation and reception at the Brockagh Centre in Laragh where SUAS Project Manager, Declan Byrne and Operational Lead, Pat Dunne, shared many of the five year project's objectives and the considerable progress to date.

The 'Sustainable Uplands Agriculture-environment Scheme (SUAS)' Pilot Project, which was officially launched in November 2018, is using an innovative approach to assist both commonage groups and individual

farmers across the Wicklow and Dublin uplands.

The project is designed to ensure the future sustainable management of the unique, natural habitats the area is renowned for and is reporting on the ecology and biodiversity found at each location.

Following the presentation, the group made a brief stop at the 6th century monastic settlement of Glendalough to enjoy one of the region's most popular tourist locations before returning to Dublin.

Speaking after the visit to Wicklow,

Declan Byrne said "It was a wonderful opportunity for the SUAS operational group to highlight the complex workings of the project with such a diverse and notable number of representatives. We are grateful that many new friendships were formed and that our project may now form part of discussions with our European colleagues."

Wicklow Uplands Council who developed the project, were also involved with the hosting of the event with Brian Dunne, Coordinator of Wicklow Uplands Council also delivering an informative presentation on the origins and need for the project of this type to the region.

"Following extensive research in the Wicklow Uplands, we are delighted that the SUAS project is now fully operational", Mr. Dunne continued. "Through information gathering and knowledge sharing, we are already observing many positive results which we were able to discuss with the delegation".

The three-day conference was organised by the Standing Committee on Agriculture Research (SCAR) and their Strategic Working Group, Agriculture Knowledge and

Innovation Systems (SWP-AKIS).

Leading the delegation was Inge Van Oost, a policy officer at the European Commission in the Directorate General Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI).

Speaking about the visit, Inge said "The EIP Projects bring opportunities to members of the farming community to enable them to develop solutions to the challenges local to their area. The meeting in Ireland was an absolute success, with many of our participants very enthusiastic about the EIP operational groups they saw and heard about during the visit. It was nice to learn more about the SUAS Project from the group leading it and to observe the upland region where its impact will be felt".

Ireland currently has 23 EIP-AGRI projects in operation, with 21 of them selected through a competitive process that took place in 2017 and 2018. Wicklow Uplands Council's SUAS Pilot Project which received a funding allocation of 1.95 million, was launched last November and is working with a number of commonage groups and hill farmers on various sites in the Wicklow and Dublin uplands.

BIFE student shares her Erasmus+ Experience in Finland

Bethany Deans, a current student in Bray Institute of Further Education (BIFE) studying Tourism, Reception and Event Management Level 5, was recently one of six students on her course who completed a two-week study programme in Finland in January as part of the Erasmus+ Programme.

Looking back on the experience, Bethany says "Our Erasmus+ programme to Finland involved attending college, sight-seeing around Finland, exploring the culture and working at the Nordic Fair, which is the largest travel fair in Northern Europe. The fair itself was incredible and exceeded the expectations we had. We stayed and attended college in a town called Nummela, which was a 50-minute car journey from Finland's capital, Helsinki.

"Before traveling to Finland, we had briefed ourselves on basic Finnish. As it is an extremely hard language to pick up in a short amount of time, we were wary on what kind of language barrier there would be. What we didn't know was that the people of Finland's English is

next to fluent, which made our trip there a hell of a lot easier! One of the main traditions in Finland is the sauna experience, which we were all reluctant to try at first because we are Irish after all and like to stick in our comfort zones. I can honestly say the sauna experience is out of this world, of course the Finns like to do things differently than just the basic sauna, so we tried snow-dipping (running from a sauna and jumping into the snow) and we would 100% recommend it!

"We also tried skiing, which is also an extremely popular winter sport in Finland, how the six of us managed to stay on our two feet is still beyond me, but worth a shot.

"We had a few spare days where we explored Finland and other bordering coun-

tries. We took a two-hour ferry trip to Tallinn, Estonia. Tallinn is a 13th century old cobbled town so it was great to be able to see the amazing capital for ourselves. Although Finland overall was a short trip, I can speak for the six of us when I say it was life changing for our education, future careers and life itself."

"It was a wonderful experience and -21 degrees was great weather to be walking around in shorts and sliders," said William Molloy. Kian Wallace called it "a life changing experience", and Ken Hanrahan said it was a "great cultural experience along with great people, it's something I will always remember."

"It was a really good experience, if you have the chance to do it I

would definitely recommend it," said Anthony Duffy. "Overall it was brilliant, If I had the chance to go back I would take it in a heartbeat," said Ryan Cromwell. Continuing, Bethany said "Although we may not all be heading down the same career paths, Finland has opened our eyes to numerous opportunities in our lives and we are beyond grateful to both the Erasmus+ programme and BIFE for giving us the once in a lifetime experience. I would also like to wish the best of luck to the Culinary Art BIFE students who are also heading on an Erasmus+ mobility to Valadolid Spain in May where they will be completing their work placement in various restaurants in the area."

Greystones Orchestra presents 'Summer Lovin...From LA to Broadway'

Join the Greystones Orchestra on 26th May at 4pm at South Beach Pavillion, Greystones for a glittering celebration of music from the shows and the silver screen.

They will be filling your Sunday afternoon with the musical genius of Andrew Lloyd Weber, Freddie Mercury, Stephen Schwartz and many more.

Singer Emer Foley will be performing with the Greystones Orchestra under the baton of Jonathon Browner as they deliver hits from Grease, Phantom of the Opera, James Bond and numbers such as 'We are the Champions' and 'Let me be your star'.

So whether you're 'hopelessly devoted' or just plain 'Wicked', be sure to book your tickets early to avoid disappointment on www.greystonesorchestraeventbrite.ie. Tickets also available on the door.

Email greystonesorch@gmail.com for more information.



Bethany Deans with Erasmus+ students William Molloy, Kian Wallace, Ken Hanrahan, Anthony Duffy and Ryan Cromwell.

BRAY SCHOOLS AWARDED FOR COMMITMENT TO GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

Two Bray schools were awarded for their commitment to global justice at the WorldWide Global Schools Annual Conference recently. North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School was awarded the WorldWide Global Schools Diplomatic Global Passport and Woodbrook College was awarded a Citizens' Passport. Nearby John Scottus School was also awarded the Diplomatic Global Passport.

"Following a request from fellow Educate Together students in Cork, North Wicklow Educate Together students decided to work together to plan a national student climate strike at the Dáil in Dublin, which coincided with a global student movement around the world on March 15th 2019, with the aim of demanding more action on climate change by the Irish government.

Students worked for 2 months before the protest, sending letters and emails to mobilise other schools, to inform local media, created posts for social media, organised logistics like transport, security, parental consent, they created slogans and banners, wrote and performed a song about climate change, attended a meeting with other students, worked with NGO's to learn more

about the links to Global Justice. They also created their ideal Sustainable Island and researched solutions for how Ireland can reduce its carbon footprint," said WorldWide Global Schools Education Officer, Lizzy Noone. "John Scottus School campaigned to ban single use plastic in the school. It was a long road of campaigning, assemblies and lobbying of different

stakeholders in the school but it's now in place and the students hope it takes off and they aim to build on this over the next three years," continued Noone.

"Woodbrook College introduced a module on global issues for all First Year Students as part of their Wellbeing Course. Students took local action to address a variety of Global Issues. TY students visited the Irish Aid Centre and Global Goals Group. Some of the tasks of this group was to keep parents and the community involved and engaged in global issues by regularly updating the website. The school held a Water Awareness Day this year and carried out action projects on the topic of Clean Water."

Students and teachers from the schools, pictured here, were amongst 320 people from 60 secondary schools gathered recently in Croke Park for the 6th annual Irish Aid WorldWide Global Schools conference 'Connecting for Change', where 34 of the schools were awarded WWGS Global Passports for their commitment to making the world a better place.



North Wicklow Educate Together's Kate Minnock and Molly Mercier Redmond being awarded their Diplomatic Global Passport by Aidan Clifford at the WWGS Annual Conference 2019

Funding of up to €200,000 available for towns and villages

Funding of up to €200,000 is available for rural towns and villages across Wicklow through the 2019 Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

The Town and Village Renewal Scheme, which promotes rural and community development provides funding for projects that make our towns more attractive places in which to live and work. The Scheme is specifically targeted at rural towns and villages with populations of less than 10,000, making it ideal for a lot of communities across Wicklow. Examples of projects across Ireland that have received funding in the past include job-creation initiatives such as the development of enterprise hubs and digital hubs.

MEP candidate Andrew Doyle says: "This year, the Town and Village Renewal

Scheme will support projects which enhance the centre of a town or village and it will also focus on initiatives which encourage increased residential occupancy in town centres. As a result, proposals seeking to develop initiatives to encourage town centre living will be particularly welcome, as will projects which stimulate economic activity between a town and village and its neighbouring townlands.

"This funding will really help build the resilience of rural communities in the face of Brexit and can also contribute to the transition to a low-carbon economy through measures based in town centres.



Minister Andrew Doyle

The scheme will be administered through Wicklow County Council, and I strongly encourage towns and villages in Wicklow to work with the local authority to prepare innovative and well thought-out projects under the scheme. I would particularly

encourage applications from towns and villages that are most in need of support, and towns that have not applied before or were unsuccessful in the past.

"Since the Town and Village Renewal Scheme was introduced in 2016, almost €53 million has been approved for over 670 projects across the country. In order to avail of funding through the scheme, Wicklow County Council will be required to advertise for expressions of interest from towns and villages and will select proposals for development into detailed applications to be submitted to the Department by the end of June."



John Scottus School's Tim Telford and Nathan Boissier being presented with their Diplomatic Global Passport by Michael Doorly from Concern at the WWGS Annual Conference 2019



Woodbrook College's James McGrane Ero and Suzanne Deery with Orla McBreen from Irish Aid being awarded their Global Passport at the WWGS Annual Conference 2019

Over €20k raised for St. Kevin's NS

A screening of *The Greatest Showman* powered by 70+ cyclists has raised €20,351 for St. Kevin's National School in Greystones, far exceeding expectations.

The fundraising event took place in the Shoreline in Grystones last month, with parents, teachers, the PA committee and board of management members of the school taking part.

There were eight bikes and volunteers were grouped together and cycled for 15 minutes for the duration of the movie and all raised money through sponsorship. In total over 600 people enjoyed this event.

These funds will go towards the significant investment made in refurbishing the classrooms in St. Kevin's NS.

Local businesses supported the event through advertising and provided prizes for the raffle which closed the event.



On the 13th of April, The Wicklow RFC U13 Boys travelled to Carlow IT to play the Final of the Southeast League against worthy opponents Enniscorthy. Wicklow hit the ground running with 2 great tries early in the first half. Enniscorthy struggled to keep up with the pace of the game and by the end the score was 34 - 5 to Wicklow

What's Happening...

Mini Greenhouse Family Workshop

This May bank holiday, Cool Planet in Powerscourt House wants to get families learning about the carbon cycle!

Kids will be introduced to the secret life of plants through Eric Carle's story 'The Tiny Seed'. Using his illustrations as inspiration, they will design and decorate a 'mini-greenhouse' to guzzle up all the CO₂ at home!

The mini-greenhouse contains seeds and a 'packed lunch' of water and nutrients. With lots of light at home, kids will see their plant growing withing a week! The duration is 50 minutes and the cost is €10 per child (adults go free).

It will take place on Saturday 4th, Sunday 5th and Monday 6th May at 11am and 1pm. Places are strictly limited and booking is essential. See coolplanetexperience.org

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WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Rachael & Niall Kennedy intend to apply for permission to develop a site at Tinnapark Demesne, Kilpedder, Co. Wicklow. The development will consist of a 1.5 story former style house, waste water treatment unit, polishing filter, new water well, movement of existing entrance and auxiliary works. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I, Tony Lyons, seeks permission for retention of 26.6m2 single storey out-house building used in the storage and handling of honey extraction including separately accessed W.C facility and all related activities and works at Brittas Bay, 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@alphaplansdesign.com) Seeks planning permission for a dwelling, waste water treatment system to EPA standards, new entrance and associated works at 7 Kilmagig Upper, Avoca, Co. Wicklow for C. McCauley and M. Leonard. 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@alphaplansdesign.com) Seeks planning permission for retention of material change of use of part of farmyard and part of shed for operation of firewood cutting, bagging, storage, and loading firewood for delivery off site and associated works at Kilcandra, Redcross, Co. Wicklow for D. Byrne. 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.



Energy for
generations

General Operative and Relief Station Attendant

Business Unit: Generation and Trading • Job Type: Permanent • Vacancy Np: GT EX19 10

Electricity Supply Board (ESB) was established in 1927 as a statutory corporation in the Republic of Ireland under the Electricity (Supply) Act 1927. With a holding of 95%, ESB is majority owned by the Irish Government. The remaining 5% is held by the trustees of an Employee Share Ownership Plan.

As a strong, diversified, vertically integrated utility, ESB operates right across the electricity market: from generation, through transmission and distribution to supply. In addition, ESB extracts further value at certain points along this chain: supplying gas, using our networks to carry fibre for telecommunications, developing electric vehicle public charging infrastructure and more.

Position Description

The successful applicant will support the efficient and safe operation of ESB's generation and water control assets on the Liffey Stations. The Liffey Stations include Pollaphuca, Golden Falls and Leixlip Power Stations and their associated infrastructure and catchment. The successful candidate will carry out all general maintenance duties on the Liffey Stations including but not limited to routine checks and operation of plant and equipment, undertaking & documenting maintenance works and noting dam monitor readings. The role will also provide relief duties for the Liffey station attendants when required. During these relief periods the successful candidate will be also be responsible for assisting with operation and monitoring of plant and equipment on the Liffey stations. From time to time, work at other ESB's locations such as Turlough Hill may also be assigned on a business needs basis.

The ideal candidate will have experience of industrial plant environments/ construction industry and will have a keen eye for detail. As the Liffey Stations are unmanned outside of normal work hours a key feature of this role is from time to time responding to callouts. As these callouts may be critical it will be a requirement of the role to be onsite within 60 minutes of a callout.

Key Responsibilities

The successful candidate will be required to carry out a range of duties not limited to the following:

- Work as part of a team
- Operation, monitoring and understanding of all main and auxiliary plant
- Proper understanding of plant indications and displays with periodic recording of plant data and events in log book
- Checking dam instrumentation readings
- Use of ESB IT systems
- Working knowledge of relevant Safety Procedures
- General duties relating to the operation and upkeep of the station
- Undertaking discrete projects as requested by Management
- Supporting station business goals (Availability, OHSAS/ISO accreditation etc.)
- Assist the station in other duties as required
- Presents a positive image of ESB to the public

Knowledge, Skills and Experience

Essential

- Applicants must be proficient in the use of computer systems
- Health, Safety & Environment (HSE) Awareness is essential
- Full Clean B category driving licence

Desirable

- Experience in industrial plants and /or construction or building maintenance works is highly desirable

Location

The position is based on Turlough Hill and Liffey Generating Stations.

Reporting to

Civil Works Supervisor, Turlough Hill and Liffey Generating Stations.

Closing Date

6th May 2019

Note: Please advise if you require any additional accommodations to assist you if you are called to attend at interview.

ESB is an Equal Opportunity Employer

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We N & D Heatley seek planning permission for internal modifications to create 5 No. office units together with a change of use to 197 Msq, an external fire escape, and all associated site development works at the Abbey Centre, St Patrick Road, Wicklow Town, 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

I Miriam Melia seek planning permission consequent to outline granted Reg Ref 16/985 for a dwelling, connection to services, a revised dual entrance and all associated site development works at Hillside Road, Wicklow Town, 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.

GARDEN CENTRE ASSISTANT MANAGER

We are currently recruiting for a full time garden centre assistant manager.

The ideal candidate must be a qualified horticulturalist with at least two years' experience working in a similar role.

The candidate should be customer service focused, have an outgoing personality with a passion for both plants and people. The position requires you to be sales driven, self-motivated, ambitious, and commercially creative.

We are looking for a hands on manager with proven leadership qualities.

To apply, please e-mail a letter of application along with an up to date copy of your curriculum vitae to
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IMPORTANT – NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The Wicklow Civil Registration Office is moving to a new location.

New location: HSE, Glenside Road, Wicklow Town.

To facilitate the move, the office will be closed on **Tuesday, 7th May 2019.**

Normal service will resume at the new location at 9:00am on Wednesday, 8th May 2019.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Opening hours: 9:00am-12:30pm and 2:00pm-4:00pm,
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