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EUROPEAN
ELECTION

MEET THE
CANDIDATES

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Tuesday 21st May 2019

5 Eglinton Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow

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BLUE FOR BRITTAS

It's good news for South Wicklow beach goers as Brittas Bay north and south beaches have retained their Blue Flag awards for this summer's bathing season, which is between June 1st and September 15th. This year's An Taisce Blue Flag Awards are being handed out at an Awards ceremony at Spanish Point in Co. Clare, on Monday 20th May.

Co-ordinated by An Taisce, funded by the Department of Housing, Planning, and Local Government, and organised by the Foundation of Environmental Education (FEE), the Blue Flag award programme is one of the world's most recognised eco-labels for beaches and marinas, challenging local authorities and beach operators to achieve high standards in four categories.

In order to qualify, a number of strict environmental, educational, safety-related and access-related criteria must be

met and maintained. The Blue Flag at Brittas means that the bathing water complies with the excellent standard in accordance with the 2006 EU Bathing Water Directive.

The Blue Flag award began in Ireland in 1988 with just 19 beaches receiving the award. Today, there are approximately 80 beaches that have Blue Flag status.

Brittas Bay South Beach has been a Blue Flag beach since 1988, while Brittas Bay North Beach has been a Blue Flag beach since 1998.

They are designated as proposed Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), and they are considered to be areas of ecological importance, with a landscape dominated by dunes which cover approximately 100 hectares. The beaches are life-guarded during bathing season (lifeguard times are displayed at a noticeboard at the beaches).

Wicklow County Council has noted that there can be pressure points on Brittas Bay north and south beaches outside of bathing season, with litter and



Teacher Cathriona Hannafin, Hannah Caw, Ava Carter, teacher Brian Breen, Lauren O'Reilly, Co. Wicklow senior football manager John Evans, and Ciara Clancy are pictured at the Avondale Community College Awards night in Rathdrum

traffic problems. The Council liaises with local and community groups and representatives, and An Garda Síochána, to address these issues. The Council works with community groups and schools with beach management plans and awareness-raising projects.

One of the central aims of The Blue Flag programme is to connect the public with their surroundings and encourage them to learn about their environment.

In successfully retaining its Blue Flag Award, Brittas Bay north and south beaches guarantee visitors a high environmental quality of water as well as facilities such as litter and recycling bins, disabled access, toilets, parking, dog control and educational projects.

Helping Brittas Bay

retain its Blue Flag awards, is the fact that since last year's awards, Brittas Bay has been provided with its first accessible beach wheelchair located at Brittas North Beach. It was provided by Wicklow Local Sports Partnership along with Wicklow County Council and Wicklow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC). Wicklow Local Sports Partnership secured funding for the beach wheelchair through Healthy Ireland Funding.

There are four Blue Flag beaches in Co. Wicklow - Brittas Bay North and South, Greystones South Beach and Bray South Promenade. Bray and Greystones beaches also retained their Blue Flags this year. To read more about Bray's Blue Flag, see page 4.

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Wicklow Municipal District

INDEPENDENT

Your Voice in the Community

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Follow Me On Facebook, Mary Kavanagh Cllr

What's Happening...

Bray guided meditation session

Learn and practice advanced guided meditation techniques to help enhance physical, mental and emotional wellbeing, reduce stress and feel calm and in control of your thoughts and emotions. Open to all over the age of 18. May session will take place in Ballywaltrim Community Centre, Boghall Road, Bray, 7-8 PM on the last Tuesday of the month, Tuesday 28th. No fee to attend (donation box available to cover renting the premises). For details ring/text Shideh on 0876710903 or Audra on 0879418941".

Soup and sandwiches lunch

There will be a lunch of soup and sandwiches served up on Tuesday, 21st May in the Swann Hall, St. Patrick's Church, Greystones from 12.30 until 2.00. Suggested donation of €5 for local charities. Everyone welcome to enjoy the home-cooked food and the chat. If you haven't tried it, now's your chance as this is the last one until September.

Shankill Library Bealtaine Talk

James Scannell will present a Bealtaine Talk 'Captain Hermann Goertz, a German WW2 Intelligence Gatherer who stayed in Shankill and other locations in Dún Laoghaire/Rathdown' at 7pm on Thursday May 23rd in Shankill Library, Library Road, Shankill, Co. Dublin. Admission free but booking required. To reserve a place for the talk call 01-2827801 or email: shankilllib@dlrcoco.ie.

County Wicklow Older Person's AGM

The County Wicklow Older Person's Council AGM takes place on the 31st May in the Brockagh Resource Centre, Laragh. Registration followed by tea and coffee from 9.45 to 10.30am. Opening from Chairperson Mai Quaid with guest speakers are Minister Andrew Doyle, Patricia Rikkard-Clarke. Lunch and a raffle, continuing in the afternoon with music by Liam Garrett at the tea dance. No admission fee.

Laragh and Glendalough Visitor Access Plans

Proposed plans are available to view in the lobby of the Brockagh Resource Centre. Following the recent public meeting an extension to submit any concerns from the community may now be emailed to roadtran@wicklowcoco.ie before June 15th. There are substantial changes to the restructuring of the area and it would be in everyone's interest to view the proposed plans before works commence.



Pictured: Molly Staunton celebrates her 100th birthday with Ian Walsh, Amanda Vickers, Tara McKenna, and Louise Moran at Blainroe Lodge nursing home.

Climate Change meeting

As most of us know by now, we are facing a climate-change crisis of unimaginable proportions if we don't dramatically reduce our greenhouse gas emissions in the next 10 to 12 years.

A public meeting will take place in the Brockagh Resource Centre at 7 pm on Thursday 23rd May to raise awareness of the threats posed by climate change and to discuss and consider options for reducing our impacts both as a community and at an individual level. The meeting will be participatory (a workshop) to gather our collective ideas and thoughts so that we, as a community, can start moving towards a brighter, more sustainable future.

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Connecting people and nature this summer

Summer is a wonderful time for getting outdoors and experiencing wildlife and nature first-hand and there is no better place to do so than county Wicklow.

This is the message from the Heritage Office of Wicklow County Council as it announced a programme of free activities - "Connecting People + Nature in Wicklow 2019" - which provides opportunities for everyone to learn more about the county's biodiversity and to get involved in hands-on conservation.

Among the highlights of the upcoming programme include a talk in the Brockagh Resource Centre, Laragh, on Wednesday, 22nd May at 7pm titled "Dippers, Fishers and Wags" by Oran O Sullivan on wildlife to be found along the Avonmore River catchment; "Forest Schools" for children at Hollywood

village and in Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve for Crinniu na nÓg on Saturday, June 15th.

There will also be a series of monthly themed family friendly events at Birdwatch Ireland's East Coast Nature Reserve in Newcastle exploring different aspects of nature through the seasons at this jewel-in-the-crown of Wicklow wetlands.

Starting on June 15th with the special children's event Sounds, Sights & Sunprints of the Woodland, and continuing each month with the following themes and dates: Sunday 14th July - Nocturnal Visitors - Bats & Moths; Sunday 11th August - Discover the Reserve - Butterfly Walk & Seed Bomb

Workshop; Sunday 8th September - Spectacle of Migration - Swifts, Swallows and Martins; Sunday 13th October - Birds on Feeders - Garden Bird Workshop; Sunday 17th November - Winter Migrants - Waterfowl; Sunday 15th December - Festive Wildlife Walk & Wreath Making Workshop.

The full "Connecting People and Nature in Wicklow 2019" programme is available online at www.wicklow.ie/heritage or on Wicklow's online community heritage archive www.countywicklowheritage.org where your stories, accounts and photos of Wicklow's wildlife heritage are always welcome.

Celebrate World MS Day in Arklow

An event will be taking place in the Arklow Bay Hotel on Thursday 30th May to mark World MS Day.

People with MS are invited to come along with a friend for an informal lunch and to hear talks by speakers about the numerous supports available locally for people with MS. The event will begin at 12pm and will finish at about 3pm. Those interested in attending must book in advance - call Linda on (01) 490 5933.

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'POOR GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS' AT SUNBEAM RESPITE CENTRE

An inspection of a centre operated by Sunbeam House Services (SHS) found poor governance, leadership and management arrangements which were impacting on the care and support provided to residents, HIQA (Health Information and Quality Authority) have said. HIQA said that significant improvement was required to ensure residents' needs were appropriately met with regard to their assessed needs.

A HIQA inspection report published last week for Suaimehneas Respite Centre in Bray found that "The provider's governance, leadership and management arrangements had not ensured a good quality service".

"In response to the findings of this inspection, the Office of the Chief Inspector wrote formally to the registered provider representative requiring the provider to submit assurances as to how they planned to address issues of non-compliance and ineffective governance arrangements. The provider submitted a response to the Office of the Chief Inspector within one week of the inspection setting out a number of actions that had been undertaken to improve the overall quality of service provided to residents."

The centre commenced operation last September in order for the transition of the respite service from another designated centre within Sunbeam House Services. It supports men and women with an intellectual disability who require low to medium support, and can care for four residents at any one time.

The inspection was carried out in January of this year. It noted that "some residents said they were happy with the service they received, while others expressed dissatis-

faction with the service and felt it was not meeting their assessed needs".

The report further notes that "the provider had failed to adhere to transition date time-lines" which resulted in "a resident living in respite service provision, on a full-time basis, for over a year."

"The provider's ineffective transition processes and systems had impacted on the quality of service provision for the resident. Suaimehneas Respite service was not set out to meet the needs of residents requiring full-time residential services and therefore the provider was failing to meet the assessed needs of some residents and also failing to adhere to the matters as set out in their statement of purpose."

SHS CEO Hugh Kane recently tendered his resignation as CEO, a position he's held for 19 months after initially being appointed for a six-month period. He told *Wicklow Times* recently that the Board would begin the process to appoint a new CEO.



The Plunkett family were the winners of 'Fittest Family' at the Hell & Back Fittest Family Challenge fundraiser in aid of St. Patrick's and St. Cronan's schools in Kilruddery estate. Pic: Joe McQuillan

Joe Behan

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Pictured is Green Party Senator and European election candidate Grace O'Sullivan with Green Party Councillor and local election candidate Steven Matthews during a recent walkabout in Bray, where they highlighted the '3 For the Sea' plaque recently installed on Bray beach as part of a joint project between Councillor Matthews, Bray Sailing Club and Bray Tidy Towns, with the support of Bray Municipal District, to encourage visitors to remove plastic waste from the beach.

Bray retains Blue Flag

Bray has successfully retained its Blue Flag award for the Seafront at the annual An Taisce awards ceremony at Spanish Point in County Clare.

Councillor Steven Matthews, who initiated the push for the Blue Flag status said, "After a 30 year absence, in 2017 I requested that Bray apply for a Blue Flag. I had been monitoring water quality results for a number of years and noted that we were achieving consistent excellent results and that year we won the coveted excellence award for water quality and beach management.

"We have now successfully retained it for three years running. Huge credit for this needs to go to our Council outdoor staff and engineer, our Bray Tidy Towns, Coastcare, Common Ground, Bray Sailing Club and Sealife Aquarium for continued work, innovation, environmental protection and good old fashioned beach clean ups. Also to the majority of Bray councillors who supported me in pursuit of winning this award back. Our Seafront is one of the busiest locations in the town and draws a huge amount of locals and visitors. Everyone can lend a hand in its upkeep by binning litter, picking up after dogs and joining our 3 For the Sea pick

up plastic initiative. I'm hoping to have a public water fountain in place soon and to commence the restoration of the Victorian shelters as the next big project.

"This is a good news story and places Bray on a worldwide map of beaches of excellent standard. Many thanks too, to An Taisce who organise and manage the awards as part of their environmental management programme," concluded Cllr Matthews.

THE YOUTH VOTE!

It's a significant week for Aisling McLaughlin from Roundwood as this Friday, May 24th, she will turn 18 and will exercise her right to vote for the first time.

Speaking to *Wicklow Times* ahead of the election, Aisling, a student in Loreto Bray, said she was excited about voting for the first time.

Inspired and politicised by the recent marriage equality and Repeal the 8th campaigns, Aisling says it was frustrating to be able to take part in political activism on these issues only to have to then remain on the sidelines when it came time to vote on them.

Aisling says that the recent 'Strike for Climate' protests and the declaration of a climate emergency which followed them also influenced her in terms of demonstrating the power that young

people have to use their voice to effect change. Aisling says she is now eager to use her voice again in the voting booth.

Aisling would not give away who she will be voting for this Friday, but says she would be looking at the policies of the individual candidates rather than tying herself down to one party or another.

One aspect of the campaign that's inspired Aisling has been the number of young candidates and female candidates in the race: "to have a younger demographic involved has been really good to see, it's been inspiring for me and my classmates to see people



Pictured: Aisling McLaughlin

in the race who we can relate to and who understand the issues of young people."

Aisling says that the teaching of Politics &

Society as a Leaving Certificate subject in her school has also meant that her and her classmates have been very engaged in the election.

LOCAL ELECTION CANDIDATE:

Eamonn Moran
Social Democrats - Bray East

Originally from Avoca Drive on the Boghall Road, and now living on the O'Byrne Road, Eamonn has been a Bray resident his whole life. An IT sales professional, he is a prominent local activist, and was heavily involved in the campaign to repeal the Eighth Amendment in the Bray area, where he conceived and helped implement the extremely successful Repeal Aid fundraiser for Together for Yes.

Eamonn is passionate in the areas of housing and homelessness, volunteering with Bray Area Rough Sleepers Support, and attending the recent housing rallies. Previously he worked as a volunteer for Marino Clinic summer camps, participated in local amateur dramatics, and has a keen interest in Bray's local history. Having a Brother with a Physical disability means he is keenly aware of the issues affecting those with disabilities in the area.



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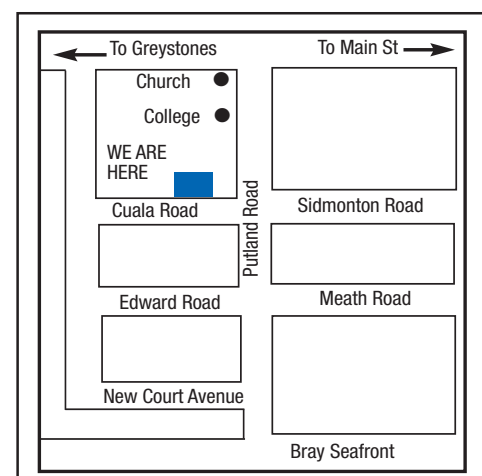
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Pictured: Matthew, Rachel, and David Burke at the recent Coillte Green Ribbon Walk in Avondale Forest, Rathdrum

Concerns with green area plan

Residents of Waverly, a new housing estate in Blacklion, Greystones, are very concerned that a proposed green area was to be left over two metres high off the roadside, according to Anne Waithira Burke, Labour candidate for the Greystones Electoral Arrea.

Anne recently met with the residents of Waverly and says she was horrified at such a proposal as it would endanger the safety of the local children playing on such a high green area.

"The residents require a green area that is consistent with the level of the adjacent roads," she said. Anne said she understands the developers are reconsidering their proposal and she hopes they will come to a sensible solution with the residents."

Given that the Council and NAMA have a duty to care, I am lending my support to these residents and have written to the County Council and to NAMA in support of their objections," said Anne.

Blessington school extension a step closer with design team visit

Advertising for a design team for the extension to Blessington Community College has taken place. Design teams visited the site last week and the selection will be made shortly. It is expected that the extension will take three years to complete.

Welcoming the latest step, Cllr Edward Timmins said that the extension is much needed as it will "extend the College to over 15,000 square feet with a capacity for 650 students".

Wicklow County Council granted planning permission for the extension last month, after

Kildare & Wicklow Education & Training Board submitted an application in February.

The development consists of "four additional prefabricated school classrooms to include an art room, three general classrooms, toilet facilities, boiler room, connection to existing drainage



Cllr Edward Timmins

and all ancillary site works to include a canopy connection between this proposal and the existing prefabricated classroom block."

The Council granted permission in April for four additional prefabricated school classrooms which would include an art room.

'Transport chaos' in Greystones without transport improvements

Cllr Derek Mitchell said he will be voting against any further rezoning in Greystones or Kilcoole in the next Development Plan.

"They are building everywhere but the road and transport improvements have not happened," he explained. "In 2015 I proposed, at a Council meeting on the Development Plan, that this expansion should be dependent on the N11 and Public Transport being improved.

"This was heavily defeated and only Cllr Grainne McLoughlin (FG) of the six local councillors supported this. The transport chaos that is happening is a direct result.

"Most Councillors don't seem to understand the difficulties faced by commuters, they just seem to want to maximise rezoning. Since then I have worked hard to get the N11 and DART improved but the building is outpacing transport. It would be far, far better if this condition had been imposed," concluded Cllr Mitchell.

Separately, Cllr Mitchell is calling on Wicklow County Council to produce a plan for the Greenroute along the Three Trout Stream from the sea to Delgany.

Cllr Mitchell said "This should form an attractive walk and has been an objective for decades. There are various suggestions that individual developments will produce sections of it. An overall plan dealing with lighting, security, biodiversity etc. is needed so that it joins up in a coherent way. I am asking the Council to produce this plan so that each section which is developed fits in to a plan."

'No Public Access' sign removed from Enniskerry Garda station

The "No Public Access" Sign has been removed from the front window of Enniskerry Garda Station.

Over 200 locals in Enniskerry signed a petition, set up by Independent local election candidate Rory O'Connor, urging the Minister for Justice Charlie Flanagan TD to give the public access to Enniskerry Garda station. The petition opened on April 1st and quickly gathered pace, becoming an election issue in the village.

Rory O'Connor said: "It's very apparent that the people of Enniskerry recognise the lack of services in the village is a real issue. It's simply not good enough to say that there are Gardai there and you have to go around the back and knock on the window. We need our local Garda station open and delivering state services when they're paid to be there."

VÓTÁIL #1

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Edward WHELAN

**VOTE
No.1**

Dear Bray East Resident,

“Over the past six months I have attempted to visit every house in the Bray East area, and have discussed with you the issues that you are concerned about. I want to sincerely thank you for the courtesy you have shown me on my canvass.

“In my professional life I worked for over forty years in The Irish Prison Service (IPS) and was appointed as the first campus Governor to The Midlands Prison and then to Mountjoy Prison.

“I have seen the effects of substance abuse, violence and crime, both on victims, their families and the families of the offenders. I have sat in the Courts hearing these cases and I have sat in the rooms where these issues have been discussed by experts in the prison service. I believe I am qualified to discuss and tackle these issues for Bray East.

“My wife and I have lived in Rathclaren since 1985, we raised our family in Bray and we love Bray, but Bray has a number of issue that need attention and over the next term of the Council:-

- **Save our Main Street**
- **Renewed efforts to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour**
- **Supports for the elderly**
- **Improvements to Bray Dart service**
- **Congestion on Main Street**

“I don't want to just tell you what is wrong with Bray, that's too easy, I want to tell you how those issues can be resolved with a modern approach, showing compassion and understanding to all. I don't want to be a part

time Councillor, I retired early from the IPS so if elected this will be my full time job.

“Bray is a fantastic town, perfectly placed for business outside Dublin, on the train line, bus routes and by the sea. This is a perfect place to work, live or visit but it must be ready for the challenges that modern society brings, I am qualified to bring those changes on Wicklow County Council.

“I don't want every issue side lined by special interest groups, I want the businesses in the town to flourish, employment to increase and everyone seeing and benefiting from the improvements.

“It is only if you lend me your support next Friday, May 24th, and Vote No. 1 that I can get to work for you! I would also ask you to continue your support for my colleague Aoife Flynn Kennedy.

Edward Whelan.



*Minister Simon Harris
working closely with
Edward Whelan and
Aoife Flynn
Kennedy*



FINE GAEL



The Donnelly family Jonathan, Liz, Sadie, and Isabell at the Hell & Back Fittest Family Challenge fundraiser in aid of St. Patrick's and St. Cronan's schools in Kilruddery estate.

Pic: Joe McQuillan

'Make Wicklow train station fit for purpose'

Labour candidate for the Wicklow Electoral Area Paul O'Brien has called on Iarnród Éireann to make the station in Wicklow Town fit for purpose.

"I was speaking to a senior citizen on the campaign trail during the week and she went on to say how she has had to give up traveling by train because she can no longer make it up and over onto platform two," O'Brien claimed.

O'Brien went on to say, "There is no lift in the station for people with disabilities, mothers with young children and of course senior citizens, yet other stations seem to be well looked after, the

toilets I hear are in a disgraceful state and passengers cannot use their leap cards. We are trying to encourage people to use public transport yet these companies don't even provide the basic requirements to do so".

Speaking about Bus Éireann O'Brien claimed that he has been inundated with complaints from angry passengers claiming the 133 is not reliable and often late: "the company does not put on enough buses during rush hour, yet passengers in



Paul O'Brien

Wicklow are expected to pay a premium for this service.

"This is yet another

example of how the residents of Wicklow, nearby towns and villages are just being taken for granted. We hear all the time about the congestion on the N11, but who can blame people for driving to work given the poor public transport service that is on offer" said O'Brien

He concluded by saying "If I'm elected on the 24th of May, I will work as hard as I can to ensure the people of Wicklow get the service and facilities they deserve"

'Giving you a say in how your money is spent'

Alice O'Donnell, Fine Gael local election candidate in Greystones, would like to see the introduction of participatory budgeting in County Wicklow.

O'Donnell said "Participatory Budgeting is a process in which the public can participate directly in how local budgets are spent. It involves people in making decisions on the spending priorities for a defined public budget in their local area.

"This means engaging residents and community groups in discussing spending priorities, encouraging them to make spending proposals, and vote on them, as well giving local people a role in the scrutiny and monitor-

ing of the process. Residents develop project proposals for their local area and vote on shortlisted proposals in order to select winning projects to be implemented in the area. South Dublin County council ran a successful pilot of this scheme in 2017.

"The results of the evaluation were very encouraging with 94% of those surveyed stating that the project should be continued. I particularly like the fact that children and young people and minority

groups were involved in the decision making process.

"An approach like this, results in people becoming more engaged and connected in their communities. Some of the ideas suggested in South Dublin County Council included the development of a Youth Space, planting native apples trees in Lucan and the provision of community allotments. 17 projects were shortlisted and the public voted to select 8 projects to be funded."

O'Donnell explained "Increased participation by communities in local decision-making is a great way to see democracy in action at local level and it is an approach that I would like to see implemented in the Greystones Municipal District. Anything that leads to better engagement, more transparency and better decision-making is to be welcomed. It also provides an opportunity for councillors to work with communities on a cross-party basis, concluded O'Donnell.

Mullen calls for West Wicklow tourism strategy

Fianna Fáil Local Election Candidate for the Baltinglass Electoral Area, John Mullen, has called for a West Wicklow tourism strategy to boost tourism and focus on West Wicklow's reputation as a top hiking and cycling destination.

Mr Mullen, who has experience in marketing walking trails in Tinahely, said that walking trails and greenways are the way forward and are crucial to the development of villages and towns.

He explained, "I have long supported the development of greenways and walking trails across the county. As a board member of County Wicklow Partnership, I supported the initial funding of the Blessington Lakes Greenway and I am a member of the Arklow-Shillelagh Greenway.

"Tourism is at the heart of Wicklow and I believe that increasing our tourism figures will depend on our ability to provide new and interesting greenway's and trails.

"I am convinced that the next steps we must take are to link the walking trails in Tinahely to Blessington via the villages and towns of West Wicklow such as Knockanana, Rathdangan, Baltinglass, Stratford, Donard, and Dunlavin. We already have an impressive 45 km of integrated walking tourism in South West Wicklow and this needs to be built upon.

"Recent CSO data shows that the number of overseas visits to Ireland for the first quarter of 2019 increased by 5.5% compared to the same period in 2018. West Wicklow needs to get its fair share of these visitors", he concluded.

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300 PEOPLE TAKE PART IN GREEN RIBBON WALK



Over 300 people visited Avondale Forest Park in Rathdrum recently for the Green Ribbon - "Let's Talk & Walk" event. The event was hosted by Coillte in association with See Change, the IFA, and Mental Health Ireland.

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 aim of the Green Ribbon campaign is to make the month of May, every year, synonymous with promoting open conversation about mental health and challenging the stigma of mental health issues.

The health benefits to both our physical and mental wellness from contact with forests and nature is well established and our aim is to encourage everyone to get outdoors into natural green environment to improve mental wellness, a challenge we all face in this increasingly fast paced and hectic world.

The aim of last Sunday's event was to was to further interest in walking and to bring to the fore the more social element of this - talking - so that the two can be enjoyed together.

Pictured: Martha Mitchell and Elliot Radford officially cut the ribbon to start the Coillte Green Ribbon Walk in Avondale Forest, Rathdrum

€15,000 secured for public WiFi

Wicklow has been awarded a €15,000 voucher to install free public WiFi hotspots under the WiFi4EU initiative.

Each Local Authority in Ireland can apply through a competitive process for a maximum of 4 vouchers, each worth €15,000, over the lifetime of the scheme. The overall budget for the WiFi4EU scheme is €120 million between 2018 and 2020. €42 million was allocated to the first call and €51m to the second call.

Two further calls for applications under WiFi4EU will take place between now and the end of the initiative in 2020. €27 million of the overall scheme budget will be allocated during this period.

Wicklow County Council now has 18 months to select locations for the WiFi4EU hotspots and complete their installation to be ready for public use. These locations need to be 'centres of public life' where no other free WiFi service is already available. The service will be free of charge, free of advertising and free from commercial re-use of data.

The voucher may serve to purchase new equipment or upgrade old material and replace it with most recent and best available equipment on the market.

The first WiFi4EU call, which took place in November 2018, was hugely successful and granted 2,800 vouchers to municipalities from all across Europe, including 62 vouchers for Ireland.

Delgany Thursday Group

The next Delgany Thursday Group outing will be on 6th June to the Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin.

Leaving Christ Church, Delgany, at 1.30pm.

Cost is €20 per person. This includes coach & guided tour but EXCLUDES scone /tea/coffee. These are available in the cafe at your own expense. To book contact Noelene 01 2876878, Peter 086 8307644 or John 086 3566527.

'Urgent overhaul needed of outdated and unfair council funding'

Local election candidate Cllr Jennifer Whitmore has called for a complete overhaul of the method of funding Councils, saying it is unfair and discriminatory on Wicklow.

Whitmore's call came following the publication of the Social Democrat's policy 'Fairer Funding for Local Authorities' and she said that Wicklow residents would benefit hugely from the proposals if adopted by the Government.

"As a Social Democrats Councillor I welcome the Party's proposal for a complete overhaul of how Local Property Tax (LPT) is distributed to ensure that councils like Wicklow County Council can properly meet the needs of their residents.

"The current model is outdated and deeply unfair particularly in areas with rapidly growing populations as is the experience in Wicklow. Residents in Wicklow are at a serious disadvantage as population increase means more pressure on services requiring increased funding to meet those needs.

"However, there is varied spending power across different councils in Ireland with Wicklow faring the third lowest in



Cllr Jennifer Whitmore

local spending per capita according to 2018 figures. We are also fairly low in the pecking order of the amount of money we receive from Government Council Grants: the 6th lowest in the country based on 2017 figures."

Cllr Whitmore said "Everyone can see clearly the demands that increased developments in Greystones, Kilcoole and Newtown are having on road infrastructure, school places and the continued need for increased recreational

areas, youth centres, libraries and community halls, services I have been campaigning for in my five years as Councillor.

"The problem with the current system is that the Local Property Tax isn't local. Income generated from each County goes to the Central Exchequer fund before it is divided up. Unfortunately the current way of distributing the LPT is based on an out-of-date way of redistribution and one which was determined over 20 years ago when we did not have the same population changes as we do now.

"Our proposal calls on the Government to go back to the drawing board and establish transparent funding procedures. These must be updated at every census and take into consideration a wide variety of needs and deficits with much more emphasis on population changes as we are experiencing in Wicklow" concluded Whitmore.

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Melanie Corrigan visits Festina Lente

Melanie Corrigan, local election candidate for Bray West had an enjoyable morning visiting Festina Lente last week.

Melanie was joined by Minister Andrew Doyle and her fellow running mate in Bray West, David Miller, along with family, friends and Festina Lente Board members. They were shown around the equestrian centre and horticultural centre that provides therapy and training for people with intellectual, physical, and mental challenges. Melanie acknowledged the excellent work carried out by the team at Festina Lente and thanked William Micklem and the Board members for their kind invitation on the day. Melanie finished her visit by stating "Festina Lente are a valuable asset to our community and I pledge my full support to them as they search for a new home".



Pictured at Festina Lente are John Greene, Melanie Corrigan, Harry Williams, Sabrina Tierney, Minister Andrew Doyle, John Doyle, David Miller, and John Leeson

'Ballywaltrim needs a fair share of investment'

Councillor Oliver O'Brien says if re-elected to Wicklow County Council he will be putting emphasis on the Ballywaltrim area. This is the area where he has for the last 25 years been working with the youth helping to improve sporting skills and assisting them to fulfill their potential as students.

Cllr O'Brien feels the Ballywaltrim area has not received its fair financial investment. He says he has had in the past got discretionary money to spend in the St Fergals GAA pitch but work done on it is very slow. He would like to see work prioritised in this area to include playground facilities, changing facilities, seats for the elderly, an awareness regarding dogs in the area causing a nuisance and also building a better community spirit between sporting bodies using the Ballywaltrim area. Another area needing attention, says Cllr O'Brien, is the Enniskerry area where the bus services are going to be severely affected. "People in Enniskerry are complain-

ing about an irregular bus service, this is not good enough for this rural area. The new proposed housing development in Enniskerry will require proper supervision. People are worried about this development and what impact it will have on the area going forward.

Killmacanogue will also be in Cllr O'Brien's sights, he says, emphasising the importance of the N11 and future improvements such as the third lane and the entrances and exits to the garages. "There has been too much talk about this problem and not enough action. I will endeavour to see progress made in the very near future," he said.

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**Vote No 1
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On May 24th**



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Events Across County Wicklow



FAMILY FUN DAY

Cruinniú na nÓg returns, join us for a Free Family Fun Day at Russborough House and Parklands on June 15th from 10.00am to 6.00pm. Advanced bookings are recommended and can be made for a variety of Workshops, Sports, Facepainting, Live music and Concerts on Eventbrite. Alternatively, come along to soak up the atmosphere! Lots of family friendly attractions on the day!



Wave

Location Greystones Library
Start Times 10.00am / 11.15am /
12.30pm / 2.30pm / 3.45pm
Suitable Ages Under 12 Months Old

Forest School

Location Deputy's Pass, Glenealy
Start Times 10.00am / 1.00pm
Suitable Ages 5 - 10 Years
Accessibility Not Wheelchair Accessible

'Let's plant a seed'

Location The Courthouse
Art Centre, Tinahely
Start Times 10.00am / 12.30pm
Suitable Ages 5 - 12 Years

Whistleberry Forest in Under the Wishing Tree

Location Arklow Library
Start Times 11.00am / 2.00pm
Suitable Ages 3 - 6 Years

Hollywood Forest School

Location Hollywood Inn/Hollywood
Woods
Start Times 10.00am / 2.00pm
Suitable Ages 5 - 10 Years
Accessibility Not Wheelchair Accessible

Aileen Lambert

Location Scoil na Coróine Mhuire
Start Times 12.00pm / 2.00pm
Suitable Ages Group 1: 7 - 9 Years,
Group 2: 10 - 12 Years

Lego Workshop

Location Enniskerry Library
Start Times 11.00am / 12.15pm / 1.30pm
Suitable Ages 5 - 12 Years

Sounds, Sights & Sunprints!

Location East Coast Nature Reserve,
Sea Road Newcastle
Start Times 11.00am - 2.00pm
Suitable Ages 5 - 17 Years
Accessibility Not Wheelchair Accessible

Fantastic Folklore Workshops

Location Mermaid Arts Centre, Bray
Start Times 1.00pm / 2.30pm
Suitable Ages 8 - 12 Years
Booking <https://www.mermaidartscentre.ie/whats-on/events/fantastic-folklore-workshop>

Magical Journeys Storytelling

Location Blessington Library
Start Times 10.30am
Suitable Ages 8 - 12 Years

The Secret Garden

Location The Courthouse Arts Centre
Tinahely
Start Times 12.30pm / 2.30pm
Suitable Ages 7+ Years

Movie 'Can You Ever Forgive Me?'

Location Mermaid Arts Centre, Bray
Start Times 8.00pm
Suitable Ages 15A
Booking <https://www.mermaidartscentre.ie/whats-on/events/can-you-ever-forgive-me>

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'Emergency action needed on homelessness'

Councillor Brendan Thornhill has called for emergency action on homelessness in Bray and its environs.

"Last Thursday the body of Krzysztof Rudnicki, a Polish national was found in the Ravenswell area of Bray. This person had passed away in tragic circumstances. Words cannot express the sadness of an event like this," said Cllr Thornhill. It is happening too often and considering that there has been similar cases like this in Bray I think the time has come for a serious conversation on this matter. There are many great voluntary organisations like The Five Loaves and BARSS, who provide excellent support to people in these circumstances but the winter initiate which had been extended by WCC is now in danger of closing. Clients of the

services have been warned by officials that it could close any day soon. I know people in a homeless situation are prone to many problems, psychological and physical challenges. Out of Krzysztof's death might come a greater awareness of homelessness. "We all have to take a collective responsibility for this blight in our towns and help eradicate this scourge. Housing is a basic human need and we have to face up to it," concluded Cllr Thornhill.



Pictured: Amanda Vickers, Nina Mooney, and Louise Moran of FirstCare, Blainroe, make a donation to Pauline Leonard and Anne McCarthy of Wicklow Cancer Support at Blainroe Lodge

Charity walk from Wicklow to Dublin

John Hunt from Wicklow Town will walk from Wicklow to Dublin on May 26th to raise money for the charity Shine, as part of the Green Ribbon campaign.

The Green Ribbon campaign takes place every May, and aims to get people talking openly about common mental health problems while Shine offers support to people affected by mental ill health.

John's walk will commence at 7am from Lidl carpark in Wicklow and will take 10-11 hours to complete. It will end at St Patrick's Mental Health Services in Dublin. The finishing point is particularly poignant as it was chosen by John to pay tribute to his mother in law Anna who is battling Alzheimer's and has used their services for a number of years.

John told *Wicklow Times*, "I am a nurse and have been affected by mental health issues and so have a number of people close to me. 1 in 4 people are affected and suicide is the biggest killer of men under 45. I have enjoyed my training for this 50km walk around beautiful Wicklow and would like to invite people to join me on the day. The walk will go through Rathnew, Newcastle, Greystones, Bray and Shankill so anybody interested can join me for a portion of it or the whole things if they like."

Anybody wishing to donate can do so online by searching for Johnny Hunt's fundraising page on www.idonate.ie

Over 300 groups benefit from Council community grants

Community grants totaling over €142,000 have been allocated by Wicklow County Council to groups throughout the county.

In total, 319 grants were awarded: 91 in Ballyglass Municipal District; 89 in Arklow MD; 65 in Wicklow MD; 43 in Bray MD and 31 in Greystones Municipal District.

The grants are awarded as part of the Council's commitment to supporting local community development with funds being provided to groups and organisations undertaking community projects in their area.

The Community Awards cover a wide range of activities to ensure that all forms of voluntary effort in the county are recognised. These include general community activities like scouting associations, first responders, women's and men's groups, active retirement, and those running community centres.

Then there are those groups who focus specifically on people most at risk of being marginalised in society such as anti-racism initiatives and vulnerable young people. Sporting and recreation activities are also included.

An additional €35,000 in grants has been awarded to 11 groups under the Community Pride category. These range from €2,500 to €5,000 and they are awarded to groups undertaking a particular project that makes a significant difference to their community.

The Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Pat Vance, offered his congratulations to all the successful grant recipients and praised the outstanding community effort which is evidenced across the county.

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Edward Whelan, Cllr Derek Mitchell, Minister Simon Harris, Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Maeve Flynn Kennedy, and Mary Mitchell O'Connor TD are pictured at the launch of the 'E Doc' GP Out of Hours Svervice at Loughlinstown Hospital

GP Out of Hours Service officially launched

Minister for Health, Simon Harris, TD last Thursday officially launched E Doc, the new and enhanced GP Out of Hours service covering North County Wicklow and South Dublin.

The Minister welcomed the news and said "The new service is operating from St. Columcille's Hospital and St. Vincent's University Hospital, and in early June will be extended to include the current service provided by DL Doc at St. Michael's Hospital. I have worked to secure this much needed service for the area for a number of years now and was lucky to work with an incredibly dedicated

cohort of local GPs. I want to thank our GP community for their hard work and commitment to the plan."

E Doc will include Nurse Led Triage, Nurse and GP consultation at each treatment centre and also home visits where appropriate. It will operate from 6pm to 8am on weekdays and 24 hours at weekends and on public holidays.

Martina Queally, Chief Officer, HSE Community Healthcare

East, thanked the Minister for officially launching the service and added "This project reflects a good example of partnership between the HSE, Department of Health and GPs, where the real winners are patients. In particular, I would like to thank the Minister and Department of Health for providing the necessary funding for this new service. I would also like to thank the GPs and HSE senior managers involved in

setting up this service and for all their hard work and commitment. E Doc will ensure that a comprehensive GP Out of Hours service is now available to all people living in Wicklow and South Dublin."

Dr Marie Hogan, GP Lead for North Wicklow said "Patients in North Wicklow can now access a local family doctor if they have an urgent medical illness in the evenings, nights and at weekends. Patients in South Dublin will have the excellent level of care provided by East Doc and DL Doc extended through the night also. This will provide an enhanced level of urgent care to patients outside of routine surgery hours and is a much needed service which is being provided by local family doctors in collaboration with the HSE."

Dr Mel Bates, Medical Director, Northdoc, said "We are very pleased to have won the tender for the provision of this service. We have had excellent local support from GPs in North East Wicklow and GP members of the DL Doc and East Doc Co-ops, and have been fully supported by the HSE in getting this service up and running."

Tinahely's new Slimming World consultant

In the past year I lost 5 stone with the help of my consultant in Slimming World and the food optimising plan. This was my second time attending Slimming World, on my first attempt I lost 3 stone.

By Tony McCann

On my first attempt I had stopped going to group, I just weighed in and left so I missed out on all the support that I would have gotten in group, so it didn't take long before I gave up and left despite having lost nearly 3 stone. It didn't take long to put back on 2 stone, at this point I was suffering from Gout, extremely high blood pressure, diabetes and anxiety all which I was on medication for. My doctor gave me a stern and frightening warning on one visit he said, "tony if you don't lose at least 2 stone by this time next year you will have a heart attack or a stroke". I was in my 40's and this frightened me, I was having panic attacks and even collapsed at one stage due to stress and anxiety.

I decided to go back to Slimming World, but this time I was going to do it right and stay for group every week and follow

the plan. "7 days on plan became my motto inside my head"

I was very shy when I first went to group but the consultant was so supportive and he helped me to understand the plan a bit better and after that I was off. I was able to pick my own target weight and I have hit that target twice and I am about to hit the target weight for the third time. My weight has never been disclosed and is always kept confidential with no judgment. The ideas that I got in group made such a huge difference I lost 5lbs in the first week - I was shocked!

I had noticed that my taste was changing I was able to eat spicy food and I liked it. It always amazes me with the amount of food that I eat daily that I have been able to lose so much weight. Most mornings I eat a full fry up for breakfast and I find myself say-

ing diet what diet. I find myself eating a lot more food than I used to but it's all fresh food and it's a balanced diet. One favourite in our house is taco fries and we would have taco fries for dinner at least once a week and love it.

So now after losing 5 stone, thanks to the food optimising plan from Slimming World, I am now off all medication and I feel fantastic! One of the biggest and best benefits to losing 5 stone with Slimming World is that I have managed to reverse diabetes. I can run 10k and last summer I did 3 10k races in 3 weeks something I never thought I could ever even dream about before. I have not been out sick from work at all this year which is very unusual for me.

I have the energy to do whatever I want to do at

any time. When I go on holidays I can walk around and explore places not just sit on a bus and look from afar while everyone else experiences the place we are visiting. Travelling on a plane, bus or train is now a delight instead of feeling cramped and claustrophobic.

Since I started my Slimming World journey I have since taken over my own Slimming World Group in Enniscorthy and this May 20th I shall start the next step in my Slimming World journey in the parochial hall in Tinahely. I will be there every Monday at 530pm and 730pm to welcome anyone who would love to start their own journey with Slimming World.

Joining Slimming World has changed my life for the better and forever & If you choose to join me, you too can change YOUR Life for the better.



Before and After: Pictured is Slimming World Tinahely's new leader, Tony McCann

Reused posters explain Doyle's 'Dorian Gray' effect

Fine Gael MEP candidate, Andrew Doyle says he has been re-using old posters from previous campaigns to demonstrate his commitment to a greener, more sustainable environment this election.

"To demonstrate my passion and values surrounding the environment, I am putting my plans into action by reusing 1000 posters from previous elections. I have a responsibility to show that I am committed to sustainability in order to address climate change," said the Wicklow TD and Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, with responsibility for Food, Forestry, and Horticulture.

"My delivery of Ireland's national statement to the High Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development has informed by views on climate change. Having become aware of Ireland's responsibility in this area some years ago, I took steps to reduce my own carbon footprint at election time some years ago. To update them for the EU elections, new labels and stickers will be used, combating harmful single use plastics.

"I'm fortunate to have space in my shed on my farm at home - and that is where I've been storing my posters. Some might say the shed has had its own Dorian Gray effect!"

Cllr Irene Winters

for a Positive Hard Working Community Voice

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VOTE NO 1

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EUROPEAN ELECTION CANDIDATES

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT IN THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS ON MAY 24TH

Leinster needs a MEP but will it be one from Wicklow?

County Wicklow voters in the EU election will again be voting in a constituency labelled 'South'.

South elects 5 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) using proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote

It was created in 2004 with the same area as the old Munster constituency, except for County Clare which was then in North-West. For the 2019 European Parliament election, a re-apportionment following Brexit and the loss of 73 MEPs from the United Kingdom gave two additional seats to Ireland. Following a recommendation of the Constituency Commission, South gained territory and an additional seat, from 4 to 5. However, the last candidate elected will not take their seat until after the United Kingdom has withdrawn from the European Union.

74.1% of the constituency's population live in Munster, while the southern Leinster counties account for 25.9%. The main urban areas (by population size) are Cork, Limerick, Waterford, Bray, Kilkenny, Ennis, Carlow, Tralee, Tullamore, Port Laoise and Wexford.

The political parties have divided up the territory amongst their candidates with the likes of sitting MEPs Sean Kelly and Deirdre Clune not even canvassing in Leinster. There is a drive on to elect a Leinster MEP and County Wicklow hasn't had an MEP since Greystones based Green Party Nuala Ahern was successful.

We profile here the candidates that have canvassed County Wicklow for your support.

MINISTER ANDREW DOYLE Fine Gael



Minister Andrew Doyle is the Fine Gael MEP candidate for the Ireland South constituency in the upcoming European elections. He is currently the Minister with responsibility for Food, Forestry and Horticulture. His long political career has resulted in extensive experience and knowledge at a national, European and global level - across a variety of key topics such as agriculture, food, fisheries, marine, tourism and business.

A member of Fine Gael since 1983, Andrew has served the party at every level from constituency chair to County Councillor, to serving as a TD, front bench spokesperson on agriculture, Chair of the Oireachtas Agriculture Committee, and now as Minister.

"The European Union is pivotal to Ireland and it is vital for Ireland to remain in the heart of Europe. Ireland needs a strong and effective voice in Europe," says Andrew Doyle. Minister Doyle has five key priorities in this campaign: Ensure Ireland and Leinster remain in the heart of Europe; Protect the environment and promote climate friendly food production; Support the farming community, ensure CAP is retained and promote the Agri-Food and Drink sector; Cut red-tape and bureaucracy for SMEs and Businesses; Support EU overseas development aid.

SENATOR GRACE O'SULLIVAN Green Party



Green Party Senator Grace O'Sullivan is a mother of three, an ecologist and an environmental specialist. She is a former Greenpeace activist, a former surf champion and a green entrepreneur.

Since being elected to Seanad Éireann Grace has worked in a number of key areas with an ecological and human dimension to them, tackling environmental and social issues head on.

Her number 1 priority is people and the wellbeing of society in general. Human health and the health of the environment underpin the ability to survive and are a priority for Grace.

She wants to see housing policy and property development that puts the needs of people first, a core principle in providing a decent quality of life. Grace also wants to prioritise the protection of that natural world, air, sea and land, while helping create sustainable green jobs for life.

CLLR. MALCOLM BYRNE Fianna Fail



An elected public representative for 20 years, Wexford councillor Malcolm Byrne is a Fianna Fail candidate in the Ireland South constituency. From Gorey, Malcolm is a graduate in Law and Arbitration from UCD and is a former Vice-President of the National Youth Council of Ireland. Malcolm works as Head of Communications with the Higher Education Authority, and was named one of the European Union's European Young Leaders in 2014.

Malcolm says his priorities are investment in communities, investment in people, and investment in the planet.

Malcolm says he wants to protect towns and communities and ensure there is balanced and sustainable regional development: "We must create a model of economic prosperity that unlocks the potential of the entire country. Ireland exists beyond the M50."

Malcolm says he wants all citizens "to avail of education and training to deal with the challenges and capitalise on the opportunities of technological change. I want support for research and innovation and also for mobility programmes, especially for our young people."

LIADH NÍ RIADA MEP Sinn Fein



From West Cork's Mœscra' Gaeltacht, Liadh Ní Riada has been the Sinn Féin MEP for Ireland South since 2014. Living in Baile Mhœirne with her husband Nicky and three daughters Cáit, Ailsa, and Neans, Liadh is a native Irish speaker.

A member of the European Parliament's committees on Budgets, on Fisheries, on Culture and Education, Liadh has powerfully advocated for a more socially responsible approach to the EU budgets, a fairer deal for Irish fishermen and measures to reduce plastic pollution in our oceans.

Is duine Liadh a thugann lán taca'ocht dhon Ghaeilge agus a mhol go mbeadh Ombudsman Teanga san Aontas Eorpach.

A prominent advocate of Irish Unity, Liadh ensured that in March 2018, the EU parliament passed a key resolution to support the Good Friday Agreement in the face of Brexit.

Liadh is fighting for Ireland and a radically transformed EU which works for the people, abandons an economic model of winners and losers, and returns powers to member States.

SHEILA NUNAN Labour



Sheila Nunan is the only Labour candidate running in the Ireland South constituency. Ms Nunan is General Secretary of the Irish National Teachers' Organisation and President of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. She is also former president of the Irish National Teachers Organisation (INTO).

A resident of Glencullen, on the Wicklow-Dublin border, Ms Nunan is a former teacher and principal at St. Kieran's National school in Bray.

Ms Nunan is campaigning on the issues of creating a socially inclusive Europe, improving transport, tackling climate change, and improving the housing crisis.

Ms Nunan says the "spheres of influence" which exist in the European Parliament make it necessary to belong to a major grouping in order to achieve anything.

Ms Nunan says immigration is an issue that should be dealt with humanely: "Integration in Ireland has been good and immigration has brought a lot of enrichment. I hope Ireland can be at the forefront in having a humane response to immigration." Nunan has also been vocal about the need to maintain Irish neutrality.

Greystones DIARY

'Fish landing' protest at harbour

Greystones fishing crews staged a 'fish landing' protest at Greystones Harbour on Saturday 11th May, in response to what they claim are broken promises that are 'putting livelihoods at risk' with regards to access to the home port.

Three boats, owned by local fishermen, landed their catch at the harbour in a deliberate breach of the by-laws - the first action of their fresh campaign for the right to return to their home port and carry on their business locally.

The fishing crews state that "when work on the new harbour began in 2008, the local fishing boats were deprived of

access to their moorings but were promised that berths would again be provided to them once the new harbour opened. This promise was broken, despite talks between the fishers and representatives from Sisk in July 2014 at which Sisk promised to provide the berths. The subsequent harbour by-laws drafted by Wicklow County Council officials effectively excluded fish-

ing boats by preventing them landing any catch and imposing impossibly high fees."

The fishing crews complain that they currently have to berth as far away as Dun Laoghaire, motor to their traditional fishing grounds off Bray Head and Greystones to fish, then return to south Dublin to land the catch, which they may then have to drive by land to

Greystones or elsewhere to sell.

Cllr Tom Fortune said "there is only one word to describe how the fishermen have been treated - 'unfair'. I am in full support of the fishermen and have been since the start of all this crazy and unfair situation. There was great support for them on Saturday and I am convinced with proper engagement and a mindset to deliver what was promised in the beginning, the tradition of fishing can return to Greystones harbour. However what I witnessed on Monday morning puts this scandalous situation in context. The fishermen arrived at 6am and had to scale a fence to get to their fishing boats and start their day's work. My God what a challenge it was for these men to go to work, they could have been seriously injured in the process. I am calling on the council to immediately redress this harbour operation. This requires action now."

Cllr Derek Mitchell has said that the fishermen should be compensated if facilities cannot be provided. He explained "The harbour was supposed to have a place for commercial fishermen. When Bord Pleanala refused the first design, the redesign eliminated that space but nobody noticed even among the 3,000 people who made submissions.

"I felt some arrangement should be made, a number were tried including laying special moorings but these were not used. The Council's Project Manager had a number of meetings with fishermen and spoke to the Fisheries Board but the fishermen did not respond," said Cllr Mitchell.

According to the Council's project manager for Greystones Harbour, the last discussions with the fishermen's representative were in 2017: "A potential landing site was identified and the fishermen were to pursue the installation of a hoist with BIM. This wasn't done as far as I know. I'm not sure why this issue has re-emerged at this time without any communication from any of the fishermen."



Minister Harris welcomed Cllr Derek Mitchell and Alice O'Donnell to Government buildings to meet Minister McHugh regarding secondary school places in Greystones.

'Positive meeting' about Greystones school places

Minister Simon Harris, Cllr Derek Mitchell and Alice O'Donnell Greystones Election Candidate recently met with Minister for Education Joe McHugh TD to highlight their concerns regarding a possible 2020 pinch point for secondary school places in Greystones.

Speaking after the meeting, Minister Harris said "We were really pleased to receive an commitment from Minister McHugh that his Department will examine the numbers for 2020 and an assurance that no child will be left without a space. Minister McHugh listened to our concerns and took away the document we presented outlining the current waiting list positions of students. He also committed to providing an update on the opening of the Online Patronage Process for the new school as soon as possible - this will really help the situation as it will make it clear to each parent what options are available for their child."

Alice O'Donnell, local election candidate and teacher and former chairperson of the autism support group (Triple A Alliance) raised the issue of ASD classes for the town with Minister McHugh. After the meeting, Alice said: "I was really delighted to receive such a positive response from the Minister on the need for additional ASD classes at secondary school level in Greystones. He confirmed to me that our new school will have an ASD class and be properly fitted out. The Minister also confirmed that the new school will be built to the highest environmental and energy efficiencies standard - as a town taking leadership on Climate Change, I know this will be really a very welcome progress."

Cllr Derek Mitchell spoke to Minister McHugh about the importance of getting works under way at the selected site as soon as possible: "I insisted the

relevant site be zoned for education over 15 years ago now in preparation for the expansion of our town. I am really delighted that the Department of Education is now recognising the need to expand the education options in our town and are com-

mitted to getting the online patronage process open as quickly as possible."

There has been extensive investment in Education in Greystones over recent years with a large new school in Temple Carrig, approval

for an extension and refurbishment of St David's and now approval for the development of a new, third school in the Charlesland area. Five new schools have been delivered in the last 10 years.

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

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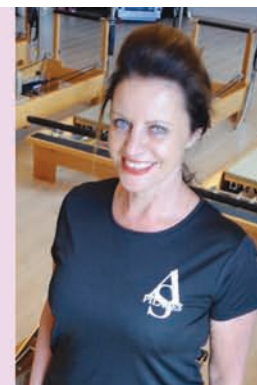
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National Theatre Wales bring 'Cotton Fingers' to Bray

National Theatre Wales has announced a tour of **Cotton Fingers**, written by award-winning writer Rachel Trezise and starring Northern Irish actor, Amy Molloy.

This politically-charged production, written during the referendum to repeal the 8th amendment, will tour to venues including the Mermaid in Bray on 1st June.

Set in Belfast, Cotton Fingers tells the story of a young woman making the journey to Wales to access free NHS abortion care. Amy Molloy will perform in this bold, one-woman show about the cycles of secrecy and the power young women hold over their futures, directed by National Theatre Wales' Associate Director, Julia Thomas.

Aoife is hungry and in need of something to do. Cillian makes a mean cheese toastie.

As Aoife's boredom and hunger are satisfied by half an hour in Cillian's bed, her life changes forever. Smart and funny, Aoife knows there's more out there for her. She just doesn't know what it is yet. As social and political upheaval grips the country she loves, can Aoife regain control over her future?

Cotton Fingers was originally performed in west Wales, in venues close to the port town of Fishguard, where Irish ferries dock, in July 2018. It was one of five monologues or Love Letters to the National Health Service that formed part of National Theatre Wales' NHS70 Festival, celebrating the Service's 70th

birthday.

National Theatre Wales is a multi-award-winning theatre company that has been making English-language productions in locations all over Wales, the UK, internationally and online since March 2010. This is its first time touring to the island of Ireland.

Announcing the tour, National Theatre Wales' Artistic Director, Kully Thiarai said: "We are very excited to be making our debut across the Irish Sea, bringing this funny, poignant but important production to audiences in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Marking a year since the historic referendum, Cotton Fingers highlights

the stark differences between women's rights on either side of the border. It's a fantastic work of snappy Welsh writing, made by an extraordinary

trio of talented women." Tickets are now on sale for this timely, politically-charged show made by an exceptionally talented, female-led creative team.



Cotton Fingers comes to The Mermaid on 1st June

Toddlers Run Wild

Barnardos was joined by Ireland's **littlest fundraisers** to launch the **Big Toddle for Barnardos** sponsored by Danone - a half-mile sponsored walk for children under five.

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Whether you're a crèche, a parent or a child-minder you can organise your own Big Toddle anytime in May or June by registering at www.barnardos.ie/bigtoddle - your support ensures that some of the youngest and most vulnerable children Barnardos works with are given the best possible start in life.

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CLASSIFIEDS

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WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We Mr & Mrs D & E Scullion intend to apply for outline permission for former dwelling on site at rear of 15 Applewood heights Greystones with access from Grattan Park. The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I Damien Gaffney intend to apply for permission for a new single storey dwelling, revisions to existing entrance to create two entrances, removal of existing septic tank and install two wastewater systems and polishing filters, one to serve existing dwelling, one to serve new dwelling, new site boundaries for existing dwelling, demolition of existing garage, new garage, new well and associate works at Carrigeenishinnagh, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Council Buildings, Wicklow Town, during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee within 5 weeks from submission of application to Planning Authority.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplandesign.com) Seeks planning permission for a dwelling, waste water treatment system to EPA standards, garage, new entrance, and associated works at Tiglin, Ashford, Co. Wicklow for S. Armstrong. The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

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ESB hereby give notice of their intention to dispose of a number of boats which were abandoned with expired or no boating permits on Pollaphuca Reservoir (Blessington Lakes).

The boats concerned are currently secured at Pollaphuca Power Station. Owners have until the 7th June to remove their property and should contact ESB on 016189695 to arrange.

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(Bray East)



Sárán Fogarty
(Bray West)

Vótáil 1 East & West

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Cllr.
Gail Dunne



Anne Gregory

Vótáil 1 & 2 in order of your choice

Your Baltinglass Team



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John Mullen

Vótáil 1 & 2 in order of your choice

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