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Tuesday 28th May 2019 5 Eglinton Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow Tel: 01 - 2869111 www.wicklowtimes.net E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie

WILDFIRES WARNING

A number of large-scale fires have ravaged areas of County Wicklow's forests and hillsides in recent weeks and the trend is likely to continue as we enter into the summer months.

Following dry weather patterns, a wildfire risk can quickly develop in all areas where flammable vegetation such as grasses, gorse and heather are present, which makes Co. Wicklow, the most forested county in Ireland, the most vulnerable county for forest fires.

The most recent blaze occurred on the west side of Sugarloaf Mountain, in an area known as the Rocky Valley, with Bray fire crews eventually extinguishing it.

On Tuesday 14th May, a fire in the Wicklow Mountains that spread to

the historic 'Coronation Plantation' lasted for several hours before Wicklow Fire Services with the help of the National Park staff eventually extinguished it in the early hours of the next morning. The fire started with the burning of vegetation, which is illegal between March 1st and August 31st, and then spread to the historic site, which dates back to 1831.

On Sunday 12th May a gorse fire occurred near Wicklow head close to Wicklow Town. In February, firefighters needed the assistance of an air corps helicopter to help tackle an inferno

that spread across the areas of Hollywood, Lacken and Kippure, threatening homes. Fires lasted for days in the Wicklow and Dublin Uplands at this time.

Andrew Doyle, Minister of State at the Department of Food, Forestry and Horticulture has urged farmers, forest owners, forest managers and the public of the need to be alert to the risk of wildfires over the summer months, and he called for anyone enjoying the outdoor recreation to behave responsibly and within the law.

"I want to continue to urge farmers, forest



Sarah Mason, Ellen Codd, and Layla Cashman at the official opening of the Woodland Garden at St. Saviour's National School, Rathdrum.

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owners, forest managers that there is a risk of fires during summer months on certain types of land, particularly in upland areas, and that high fire risk conditions can be expected over the coming months, when weather conditions dictate."

Recalling the major wildfires in recent years that destroyed or damaged property, including farmland and forests, he added; "Such fires directly endanger people's homes and property and destroy valuable habitats and tourism resources. Furthermore, they place enormous strain on the emergency services and put the lives of rural dwellers and emergency service personnel at considerable risk.

"The message is essentially the same each year

- I ask land owners, rural dwellers and other land users to maintain a high degree of vigilance regarding fire, with special regard to lighting fires."

Michael Power, National Estates Risk Manager for Coillte, says that people who burn growing vegetation on uncultivated land between 1st March and 31st August are liable to prosecution and could face fines, imprisonment and penalties to their farm payments.

Aidan Dempsey, Chief Fire Officer for Wicklow County Council says that "Suspicious activity should be reported to the Gardaí and uncontrolled or unattended fires should be reported immediately to the Fire and Emergency Services."

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OUTSTANDING IN THEIR FIELD

Minister for Food, Forestry and Horticulture and MEP Candidate Andrew Doyle joined Seamus O'Brien, Head gardener at Killmacurragh Botanic Gardens in Kilbride, Wicklow and Deputy Kevin 'Boxer' Moran TD to host HRH Prince Charles in the beautiful Killmacurragh Botanic Gardens in Kilbride last week.

What's Happening...

St David's Car Boot Sale

St David's car boot sale will take place on June 2nd at St David's School, Grystones between 9am and 3pm. The gate will open for sellers at 7.30am and be locked at 3.30pm. Cars are €15, vans or cars with trailers are €25, payable on entry. For further information email info@stdavids.ie

Fundraiser for Sarah O'Gorman

Sarah O'Gorman, a 3rd class pupil of the Gaelscoil in Arklow, is currently in the US undergoing treatment for Lyme disease, Babesia and Anaplasmosis, from a tick bite. The Gaelscoil's Parents Association have organised a fundraiser coffee morning and cake sale, in aid of getting Sarah better and getting her home. There will be raffle prizes to be won and a kids disco. A GoFundMe page has been set up for Sarah at gofundme.com/get-sarah-better

Greystones Flower Club demonstration

Greystones Flower club are having a flower demonstration on the 28th May 2019 at 8pm. The demonstrator is Ali Dietrich. The venue is the Evangelical Church Hall, Hillside Road, Greystones, Price in is €7, this includes tea, coffee and biscuits. All are welcome.

First Saturday Book Sale

The June First Saturday Book Sale, which supports the Shankill Old Folks Association, will take place in the Shankill Old Folks Centre. Lower Road, Shankill, on Saturday June 1st between 10am and 1pm so avail of the opportunity to pick up great June Bank Holiday reading material from the wide selection of books to choose from as well as DVDs and CDs. Donations of books, which must be in a good and clean condition, other than school/text books, will be accepted on that day. Supporting the First Saturday Book Sale supports the wider Shankill Community at large.

Racing news

Tinahely trainer Philip Rothwell shared a winner with conditional rider James O'Sullivan when Fiveaftermidnight scored a three-length success in the mares' maiden hurdle at Killarney.

The six-year-old was returned at odds of 4/1 and it was to get better for Rothwell who was back in the winners' enclosure at Tramore the following afternoon when the Adam Short-ridden Shanklys Dawn took the handicap chase in the colours of James Guilfoyle. "It's great to get a few winners again. The horses have been running well all year, but we probably just don't have the standard of horses that we can really compete with. On top of that we were getting a lot of seconds. I minded a few of the winter horses because the ground has been so good all year," said the winning trainer.

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Hospice heroes honoured

Ciarán Byrne and Brenda Barry, who volunteer each year to support their local hospice on Hospice Sunflower Days, have been named official 'Hospice Heroes' for their many years of fundraising service on behalf of their local hospice, Wicklow Hospice.

Ciarán and Brenda along with 25 others were honoured with the title of 'Hospice Hero' at a special ceremony in St. Francis Hospice, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15 on Thursday, 9th May 2019 to coincide with the official launch of this year's Hospice Sunflower Days campaign.

Ciarán has been involved in fundraising for Wicklow Hospice for 10 years. A retired teacher, Ciarán uses his expertise and skills to assist in the running of events to help raise funds for the hospice and just earlier this year, Ciarán organised for 18 people to attend a marathon in Munich for the hospice. Brenda has assisted the hospice for almost 5 years and runs a Craft Fair Fundraiser in Avoca, taking place 2nd November, along with her friend to raise funds for the hospice.

Brenda also helps out with the Christmas Memory Tree and has organised a cookery demonstration fundraiser with well known chef, Derry Clarke, in aid of Wicklow Hospice.

Ciarán and Brenda were presented with their plaques at the ceremony by Mary Kennedy, Hospice Sunflower Days



Pictured at the 'Hospice Hero' special ceremony are (l-r), Sinead Tarmey, Wicklow Hospice, Ciarán Byrne, Mary Kennedy, Hospice Sunflower Days Ambassador and RTE Broadcaster and Brenda Barry. Ciarán and Brenda, who volunteer each year to support their local hospice on Hospice Sunflower Days, have been named official 'Hospice Heroes' for their many years of fundraising service on behalf of their local hospice, Wicklow Hospice.

Ambassador and RTE Broadcaster.

This year's Hospice Sunflower Days, which marks the 29th year of the campaign, is taking place on Friday, 7th June and Saturday 8th June 2019. You can show your support for this worthy cause by volunteering to help out over the two days fundraising or by donating and buying some sunflower merchandise; and remember every euro raised locally, stays locally.

Hospice Sunflower Days aims to raise much needed funds for hospices and specialist palliative home care services across the country enabling them to continue to provide person centred, holistic and loving care to patients and their loved ones free of charge.

If you would like to volunteer or donate, please contact your local hospice or specialist palliative home care service today, log onto www.sunflowerdays.ie or show

your support by purchasing some sunflower merchandise on Hospice Sunflower Days this June.

Alternatively, you can make a donation by texting 'SUN' to 50300 to donate €4 to support local hospice groups across Ireland. Texts cost €4. Hospice Sunflower Days will receive a minimum of €3.60. Service Provider: LIKECHARITY. Helpline: 076 680 5278.



HRH Prince of Wales Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall Camilla, plant a tree on their visit to Powerscourt last week, with Minister Simon Harris, Cathaoirleach Pat Vance and Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Frank Curran.

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Tel: 01-2869111

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

PERMISSION GRANTED FOR MASTS AT MARTELLO

Permission has been granted by An Bord Pleanála for the installation of six antenna and four transmission dishes at the rear roof level of the Martello on Strand Road.

The Board granted permission after two previous refusals by Wicklow County Council. The planners refused permission as they considered it would be contrary to the development standards for mast and telecommunications structures as set out in the County Development Plan. They said the development had the 'potential to impact upon the residential amenities of the area and to detract from the visual amenities of this area. To permit this development would therefore be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.'

The report also stated that the applicants had failed to submit a statement of compliance with the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA) Guidelines.

However, following an appeal, An Bord Pleanála found that having regard to the existing pattern of development in the area, and the nature and scale of the proposed development, it considered that 'subject to compliance, the proposed development would be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable planning of the area.'

The six antenna will be 2.5m high (8.2

ft) with four transmission dishes on supporting poles including remote radio units, gantry platform with associated equipment cabinets, cabling and associated site works.

The application, by Cignal Infrastructure Ltd, is one of five applications by the company in locations around County Wicklow since 2017. Applications were lodged for locations at Merrymount in Rathnew, Meridian Shopping Centre in Greystones, Sandyhills in Dunlavin, The Horse and Hound in Delgany as well as the Martello Bray.

The application in Greystones led to the formation of a campaign last month by concerned locals to halt the development. They said they were concerned that the masts will 'expose residents within 50/100 metres of the tower to microwave frequencies known to be biologically active 24/7; expose workers/shoppers/school and afterschool children to biologically active microwave frequencies; significantly devalue the surrounding property potentially making housing units in close proximity unsaleable.'



Pictured: Pupils help Dephine Hardel cut the cake at the official opening of the Woodland Garden at St. Saviour's National School, Rathdrum.

Wildfires Warning

Continued from Page 1

Coillte outlines seven steps to prevent fires this summer: "Do not light fires in or near woodland; Have a fire plan. Ensure you have a current fire plan for your forest; Work with neighbours. Co-operation is vital to achieve successful pre- prevention; be vigilant. Forest owners should be particularly vigilant following dry weather; Check fire breaks and access routes; insure your crop; report losses. If a plantation is destroyed or damaged by fire, the incident should be reported to the nearest Garda Station and to the Forest Service."

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) recently announced plans to manage the risk of wildfires through drone technology. The NPWS will work with Coillte to combat the spread of wildfires. This pilot is the first of its kind. It will initially be rolled out in the Dublin Mountains and if successful both NPWS and Coillte will look to roll out this technology in other areas.

Drones can be equipped with infrared cameras that peer through smoke, as well as sensors for wind direction and other weather variables that affect how fires spread. They will capture continuous footage of areas deemed as high-risk

and spot small fires that otherwise could not have been detected until they had become much larger and harder to contain.

The Wicklow Uplands Council say that they "have seen a rise in the extent and frequency of unregulated burning in recent years, highlighting a greater need for controlled burning practices to be implemented. There is a perception that burning vegetation within the permissive season is 'controlled' while outside the season is 'uncontrolled'. This is not the case. Controlled burning refers to the practice of burning smaller areas of vegetation on a rotational basis. It requires notice be given to adjacent landowners and local Gardaí. Burning areas greater than 5 ha within a designated area requires prior written consent from the NPWS. Uncontrolled burning, regardless of the time of year, is destructive and poses a serious threat to property, public safety and can cause extensive damage."

'Serious gaps' in Wicklow dementia services

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (ASI) says there are serious gaps in the services provided in Wicklow, with none of the following services available according to the mapping project carried out by ASI and National Dementia Office (NDO): Dementia Assistive Technology Library, Dementia Cognitive Therapies, Dementia Counselling Service and Dementia In-Home Respite.

There are over 1,200 people living with dementia and their struggling families in Wicklow. With dementia a growing issue and the majority of those with dementia living in the community, there is a need for a 'whole community response' to dementia, the ASI says.

The ASI is calling on newly elected local councillors to sign up and become a 'Dementia: Understand Together Community Champion' at understandtogether.ie; Engage with local dementia service providers to identify facilities where dementia inclusive initiatives can be held and link with other Community Champions to offer these; Encourage public facing staff e.g. libraries, to participate in dementia-awareness training.

This support from local representatives is desperately needed, ASI says, the 2018 mapping of dementia-specific services in Ireland shows that not only does access to community dementia-specific services vary depending on where you live, but no county has even a minimum level of dementia support.

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland CEO, Pat McLoughlin, said "People with dementia and their family carers need their newly elected local representatives to play a key role in championing their rights in the years ahead and a community-wide response is needed to ensure that struggling families get better support and services. Dementia is one of the biggest health issues that this country faces. The sad reality is that

people with dementia and their families are really struggling because they are being faced with inadequate services and supports."

Vice-Chair of the Irish Dementia Working Group (IDWG), Kathy Ryan said "Newly elected local councillors can ensure that local communities make dementia a priority. The last time the local elections were held, in 2014, was when I received my diagnosis of Younger Onset Alzheimer's, so this year's elections have a special poignancy for me. By everyone learning a little, you have the potential of helping us a lot."

Irish homecare provider, Bluebird Care, recently launched Understand, Respect and Respond with Care, a national roadshow of community talks to raise awareness of

dementia in support of the HSE's Dementia: Understand Together campaign.

Speaking at the launch, Managing Director of Bluebird Care Ireland, Brian MacGoey, commented, "In Ireland one in two people know someone who has dementia. People who have had a diagnosis of dementia can live active and meaningful lives in the community and it's important to learn how best to support these individuals and their families. The Bluebird Care campaign is called Understand, Respect and Respond with care. Our aim is to raise public awareness and give people the skills and additional knowledge to respond appropriately to people and their families with a diagnosis of dementia."

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Pictured: Catherine Wakeford, Orla Ni Ceallaigh, Geraldine Kavanagh, Niamh O Ceallaigh and Ros Ni Ceallaigh plant a tree at the official opening of the Woodland Garden at St. Saviour's National School, Rathdrum.

Water works in Wicklow Town

Irish Water, working in partnership with Wicklow County Council, is commencing works to replace aging water mains in Fitzwilliam Square, Wicklow Town. The works are due for completion by the end of June. Once complete, Irish Water say, the benefits of the project for the local community will include a more reliable water supply for all customers.

"Replacing old water mains and service connections will reduce the instances of bursts and water outages to customers and local businesses in the area. Operational and maintenance costs will also be reduced as the network operation will require less maintenance."

The work is part of Irish Water's national Leakage Reduction Programme as part of which over €500 million is being invested to reduce the level of leakage across the country by fixing and replacing aging water mains. Irish Water say "This will ensure a safe, reliable water supply which is vital for our health, our environment and our growing population and economy."

The works will involve the replacement of approximately 350 metres of aged cast iron and problematic water mains with high density polyethylene (plastic) pipes. The section of works will take place between Abbey Street and Fitzwilliam Square. The works will also involve laying new water service connections from the public water main in the road to customers' property boundaries and connecting it to the customers' water supply. The works will be carried out by Ward and Burke Ltd, on behalf of Irish Water.

Irish Water has planned the works in short sections in order to limit impact on customers. Traffic management will be in place during this time with stop/go arrangements or temporary traffic lights in place on Fitzwilliam Square as required. Works may involve some short-term water shut offs and the project team will ensure that customers are given a minimum of 48 hours' notice prior to any planned water shut offs.

A local road closure is required for a section of the works which will be in place for a number of days on Fitzwilliam Square from the junction with Abbey Street to the junction with Bridge Street. The local community affected will be directly notified in advance of the closure. There may be local diversions in place for the duration of the works. Local and emergency traffic will be maintained at all times.

Commenting on the works, Joe Carroll, Irish Water's Leakage Reduction Programme Regional Lead said: "The replacement of these aging water mains in Wicklow Town will improve security of supply for local residents and businesses alike. Replacing the existing water mains with new modern pipes will provide a long-term solution to ensure a safe and secure water supply is delivered to customers. Irish Water understands this type of work can be inconvenient and will ensure our work crews make every effort to minimise any disruption these works may cause."

Residents and businesses in the areas of the works have been notified and customers can call the Irish Water customer helpline on 1850 278 278 for any questions in relation to the works.

Rehab Care services granted additional funding

Funding has been secured to save the Rehab Care services in Wicklow. The services in Wicklow are: Bray Resource Centre, Lean Aghaigh Day Service and Phoenix Resource Centre.

Bray Resource Centre is for people aged 30 and over who have mild intellectual disabilities (including autism and asperger's syndrome) and mental health issues. Lean Aghaigh Day Service is for people with profound disabilities, and Phoenix Resource Centre offers a vital service to younger people with a dual diagnosis of intellectual disability and mental ill health.

The agreement secures an additional €2million this year to fund RehabCare's services. The group had threatened to terminate provision of services due to a €2m HSE funding shortfall. Rehab Group and its Board stated that they are deeply relieved that these critical care services for more than 3,000 people throughout 117 locations can now con-

tinue to be provided.

RehabCare offers life-changing care and support for the people it serves. This includes vital respite and residential services for 186 children, many with high-support needs. It includes day services for more than 1,600 adults along with supported accommodation services which allows hundreds of people to live independently in their communities, some after leaving decades of institutional care.

Rehab Group CEO, Mo Flynn said "Every day we see the difference our work makes to the people who use our services and throughout this campaign we heard how much it would affect them were those services to be threatened. Many of people supported us by contacting their TDs, Councillors and Senators, and by holding

days of action. We're delighted their voices were heard by the HSE, Minister Harris and Minister McGrath.

"We welcome the fact that we have reached a resolution and that we can now continue to provide these vital services to the people of Wicklow who rely on them. The news will come as an enormous relief to the people in our services, their families and our dedicated staff who have worked so hard to campaign for the continuation of their services."

Fianna Fáil spokesperson on Health, Stephen Donnelly, welcomed the news but warned that families and service users should not have had to endure such fear in the lead up to the confirmation of funding.

Deputy Donnelly commented, "It is very wel-

come news that €2m has been secured for RehabCare services. The government only sat down with RehabCare after much political and public pressure.

"Nationwide, in every town and village, people benefit from the dedicated services of RehabCare. Often these services supplement health centre services, particularly in rural Ireland as this sector struggles.

"Without this €2m there was a real concern that services would stop. Fortunately, this is now not the case. The Minister for Health and his Department must quickly outline when the money will be issued and ensure an examination of issuing multi-year funding is considered, so we do not have an annual panic for the clients and families of RehabCare."

Kilmac Girl Guide leader receives 50-year service award

A Wicklow Girl Guide leader has received a 50-year service award in recognition of the five decades of service she has given to the Irish Girl Guides (IGG).



Joan Gregg (left) pictured receiving her 50-year service award from Irish Girl Guides Chief Commissioner Helen Concannon and Irish Girl Guides President Maureen Murphy

Joan Gregg from Kilmacanogue has a long history of service and commitment to the organisation. She was presented with her 50-year service pin at IGG's National Council, which was held in The Plaza Hotel, Tallaght, recently.

Joan's career as a Girl Guide volunteer started in 1958 when she became Captain of Harold's Cross Guide Company. She subsequently served as Captain of Dalkey Guide Company from 1962-1971.

Joan served as both Division Secretary and

District Commissioner in the early 1970s and was Captain of Greystones Rangers from 1982-1987.

Joan has also given many years of dedicated service to IGG at national level. She served as Chairman of the National Camping Committee from 1989 - 1995.

She has also served for many years on the committee responsible for IGG's National Memorial Cottage in Enniskerry. She served as Chair of the committee for 18 years - a huge voluntary commitment!

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Pictured are Aidan O'Toole, Frances O'Leary, Patrick O'Leary, and Edel Gammell at the Dancing for Dementia benefit night in aid of St. Joseph's Dementia Care Centre in Shankill, held in the Parkview Hotel. The event was initiated by Pat and Frances O'Leary who are well known for their Nice N Easy dancing every Sunday night in Greystones Rugby Club and was promoted by AIB Bray Branch under the guidance of assistant manager Edel Gammell.

The Parkview Hotel and the music supplied by Jimmy Hogan and Larry was all free of charge. Also contributing was Bray man Aidan O' Toole who was happy to take part in another major fundraiser for St Joseph's Shankill. Money raised is designated to refurbishing the courtyard between Avoca and Kilcrouney lodges at St Joseph's which will enhance the appearance and facilities for the residents in St. Josephs enormously.

The dance made €4000 and was the first of a two-part project to raise funds to enhance the garden. On the 23rd June a motorbike run is organized for around Wicklow. The event will finish at St. Joseph's Shankill.

Bray Retail Park introduces sensory friendly shopping

Bray's plans to become an Autism Friendly Town took another step forward as the local Retail Park introduced sensory-friendly shopping to make store visits easier for people with autism and other sensory difficulties.

The Retail Park project was launched in Bray with a special family day on Saturday, 18th May. "We are absolutely delighted to join with the initiative to make Bray an Autism Friendly town by introducing sensory-friendly shopping at Bray Retail Park," said Emma Leonard of park managers Sigma Retail Partners.

Initiatives will include the availability of peaked caps for people with autism and other sensory issues which will block out light and help staff to identify people who may need assistance.

Trips to the shops can be stressful for autistic adults and children and they can be overwhelmed by sensory experiences. Peaked caps reduce the possibility of sensory overload.

Sigma Retail Partners, which manages a number of retail parks across Ireland, is making the customer experience easier for families of children with special needs.

Working closely with stores, Bray Retail Park will provide advice to store staff and develop inclusive activities to improve the customer experience.

These will include 'quiet hours' to facilitate visits by people with autism and other sensory difficulties which will be advertised on the Park's Facebook page.

The spotlight on the family day was on the Bray Retail Park community providing both fun for children and information for families.

"There needs to be bigger and better awareness of autism in our commu-

nities across the country and Bray Retail Park is more than happy to introduce sensory-friendly shopping," added Emma.

"True autism-friendliness means that we welcome you, and we understand that sometimes you may need additional support and we are happy to provide it."

Bray Retail Park plan to host other autism-awareness events and fundraising initiatives.

Last June, Sigma unveiled its Parkway Retail Park facility in Limerick as Ireland's First Autism and Sensory-Friendly retail park. 'Do Well by Doing Good' is the theme of Sigma's 2019 corporate responsibility programme.

Arklow's green coast

Arklow South Beach was one of 62 beaches to be awarded a Green Coast Award at last week's Blue Flag, Green Coast Awards at Spanish Point in Co. Clare. Arklow Coastcare picked up the award.

The Green Coast Award is given to sites which have excellent water quality but which may be less developed and less populated than Blue Flag beaches. An important aspect of the Green Coast Awards is the involvement of Clean Coasts Volunteer Groups. There are now over 800 Coast care groups established throughout the island.

Eoghan Murphy T.D., Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government said "the attainment of 62 Green Coast Awards, the highest number since the inception of the awards in 2003, is extremely welcome. It is a reflection of the outstanding efforts of citizen and community groups and the great work carried out by An Taisce and the Local Authorities. My Department will continue to provide support for these programmes, which assist volunteer groups and also influences positive behaviour in relation to our marine environment.

Enniskerry student tops National Coding Final

A talented young coder from St. Mary's and St. Gerard's National School in Enniskerry won a top prize at the National Scratch Coding Competition, which was held at the University of Limerick as part of Tech Week 2019.

Ellie Conlon took home the top prize for Best Educational Content for her project 'Around the World'. The winners were selected from over 500 entries nationwide and judged to be the best in their respective categories.

Scratch is a visual programming language that makes it easy for young people to create their own interactive stories, animations, games, music, and art - and share their creations on the web. Using Scratch allows students to develop creative and critical thinking, problem-solving and communication skills as they work collaboratively or individually on Scratch projects.

Now in its ninth year, the National Scratch Competition has established itself among both teachers and students as a leading platform and showcase for Ireland's aspiring digital creators.

The competition is run by the ICS Foundation, the social enterprise arm of the Irish Computer Society and supported by Lero, the Irish Software Research Centre.

Tech Week provides hands-on opportunities to learn about how computing and related technology are shaping every area

of life. The aim is to stimulate thinking around future opportunities for study and careers in technology, through learning in the wider areas of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects.

Jim Friars, CEO, Irish Computer Society said, "Events such as this help inspire Ireland's next generation of digital creators. It's becoming ever-more critical that we develop more interactive and engaging ways for the young students to learn about technology and how it interacts with every part of our lives. We need to open their minds to careers in technology and today's finals show that we're on the right path. I want to congratulate Abdul-Marteen and Confey College and all the other students who took part in the final."

Clare McNerney, Education and Outreach Manager in Lero said, "The standard for this year's competition has been fantastic and I want to say a huge congratulations to everyone involved. This unique and highly engaging event provides young students with real, hands-on coding experience and highlights how important it is our everyday lives."

Beary, AWS Ireland Country Manager said, "Competitions like Scratch foster curiosity, and provide students with hands-on opportunities to learn the digital skills they need to succeed in today's technology-focused, innovation-driven economy. Connecting educational experiences to real-life opportunities is an effective way to get young students excited about what they're learning. The projects this year were truly exceptional, congratulations to all involved."



Anila Mjeda, LERO, presents Best Educational Content award to Ellie Conlon

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Wicklow the exception as number and value of house sales decline in 2018

Wicklow was the only county in Leinster to see a fall both in the number of sales and the value of those sales in 2018, according to an analysis of the Property Price Register carried out by leading property website MyHome.ie.

The total number of sales in Wicklow accounted for 10.6% of Leinster, ex Dublin's, total. The amount spent accounted for 10% of the province's total, minus the capital.

The level of residential property sales in the rest of Leinster, excluding Dublin, increased by 6.1% in 2018 to 15,142. This means that property sales in Leinster, excluding Dublin, accounted for 26.6% of total national

sales of 56,836 last year.

Meanwhile, the total value of property sales in Leinster, excluding Dublin, increased by a much higher percentage, rising by 11.4% to almost €3.5bn.

The number of transactions fell by 3.4% from 1,667 to 1,611. Meanwhile the value of those sales was down 3% from €552.2 to €535.9m, a decline of €16.3m.

The bulk of the sales in

the province came in Kildare where sales rose from 2,850 to 3,076 - an increase of 7.9%. This was just over a fifth of all sales in the province, excluding Dublin. Kildare was also the county where the most amount of money was spent at €876.8m.

The Managing Director of MyHome.ie, Angela Keegan said the figures reflected the general trend towards increased urbanisation.

"Dublin has been very successful in attracting investment and higher paid jobs. As a result, the capital is where people increasingly want to live and if they can't live there due to the lack of affordable housing or if they want more space, they tend to move to towns in the commuter belt.

"Despite the fall in the volume of sales in Wicklow and a couple of other counties, sales were up in the other nine. Wicklow, along with the other commuter belt counties made it into the top five counties by number of sales. Overall the figures are encouraging as it shows the market is continuing to recover. For a market like Ireland's with some two million homes, we should be seeing at least 4% of those properties changing hands annually. We're currently under 60,000 sales nationally and we need to get to circa 80,000 sales a year, but the graph is moving in the right direction."



Pictured: Patricia O'Byrne and Noah Coyne at Feila Chill Mhantain which was held in Wicklow Town last week.

Wicklow rents rise by 7.1%

In Wicklow, rents were on average 7.1% higher in the first quarter of 2019 than a year previously. The average listed rent is now €1383, up 79% from its lowest point. That's according to the latest quarterly Rental Report by Daft.ie.

Rents in Dublin's commuter counties rose by an average of 6.6% in the year to March 2019 and are now almost 33% above their previous high in early 2008.

There are different trends in rental inflation across the country. In Dublin, the increase in rents in the year to December 2018 was 6.8%, the 31st consecutive quarter where rents have risen but the slowest increase since early 2013. Similarly, inflation is slowing in Leinster, with rents 7.3% higher than a year ago, half the rate of inflation seen two years ago. But elsewhere in the country, rents continue to rise at double digit rates, with increases of between 10% and 15% in Cork, Galway, Limerick and Waterford cities, and increases of 12% on average in Munster, Connacht and Ulster. Commenting on the report, Ronan Lyons, economist at Trinity College Dublin and author of the Daft Report, said: "The rental market remains plagued by weak supply at a time of strong demand. While the total number of rental homes on the market did improve slightly earlier in 2019, the figures for May have undone all that progress. Much of the commentary around new supply for the market is unhelpful, particularly talk of so-called 'cuckoo funds' - what in other countries are termed landlords. With the sale market showing signs of greater balance between supply and demand, policymakers must maintain their focus on boosting rental supply. A key part of that is developers building, and institutional landlords buying, new apartment blocks."

Raychel O'Connell from Daft.ie said "Low availability of rental properties is clearly a major issue at the moment. With over 1.4 million property searches on Daft each day demand continues to be strong, despite decreasing supply in the current market."

35 years of Open Door Day Centre

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

Open Door is a charitable trust founded in 1984 and while based in Bray, the catchment area covers North Wicklow and South County Dublin. The Centre provides facilities and activities for adults with varying disabilities as a result of stroke, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, motor neurone disease, spina bifida and road accidents amongst others.

Activities include art, music, computers, physiotherapy, ceramics and woodwork. Open Door is a vital social outlet for its members and also provides much needed support for carers and their families. Find out how Open Door can help you or someone you know by calling 01 2867123 or drop in to the Centre on the Vevay Road, Bray, Monday to Friday, 9.00 am - 4.00 pm.

While Open Door is partly funded by the HSE, funds must be raised to cover the deficit in order to continue to provide the many therapeutic activities to members of the community. Visit www.opendoor.ie for more information on how you can help support Open Door.

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Lara Bayliss a member of Bray Ladybirds (right) helps to celebrate the Irish Girl Guides Gold Health Quality Mark Award with Rachel O'Connell. Irish Girl Guides was awarded its 6th Gold Standard Health Quality Mark by the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) in recognition of their work on health promotion for young people at a special event held in the Irish Girl Guides (IGG) National Office in Ballsbridge. Pic: Tommy Clancy

Shankill Tidy Towns heritage walk

The next heritage walk organised by the Shankill Tidy Towns takes place on Monday June 3rd and will be a coastal walk from Dalkey led by local historian Rob Goodbody.

The walk starts from Dalkey Dart station at 11.30am and then will proceed over Dalkey Hill, Killiney Hill, through Killiney village, down Victoria Road, then to the coast at Station Road and ending at Shankill Dart station. Please wear suitable footwear and dress appropriately for the day's weather conditions. This is a community activity organised by volunteers and a community organisation which accept no liability for injuries or loss caused to participants in this walk.

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Sports clubs benefit from early allocation of equipment sport capital fund

Co Wicklow sporting organisations will benefit from an early allocation of €417,861 for equipment only applications to the Sports Capital Fund.

Minister Simon Harris met with Minister of State with responsibility for Tourism and Sport recently and raised the issue of allocations to clubs awaiting funding for much needed equipment. Speaking after the meeting.

The allocations will benefit over 20 organisations. They include €89,310 for the 9th Wicklow (port of Arklow sea Scout group) for outdoor activities, €30,000 to Cobra Gymnastics Club for Safety and trampoline improvements, and €90,155 to Wicklow Sub Aqua Club Replacement RIB and

rescue inflatable. Minister Harris said: "I am delighted to confirm that Wicklow has received half a million euro in funding for just the equipment based Sports Capital applications.

"The Sports Capital Grant has become a very successful tool to aid the development of our sporting organisations and we in Co Wicklow have benefited significantly each year. This year, Minister Griffin has agreed to allocate the 'equipment only' applications ahead of the larger capital applications to ensure there is no unnecessary

delays for clubs. The equipment only applications can be processed and assessed much faster than the larger applications so this is really a common sense approach."

Minister Harris continued: "Having visited Wicklow Rowing Club on Saturday to unveil a new skiff purchased thanks to the 2018 Sports Capital scheme, it is fantastic to be able to confirm almost half a million euro in new funding for projects like this again today. Indeed, Wicklow Rowing Club will receive an additional €20,000 this year for an offshore Quad FISA

Boat with trailer this year. This €417,861 will mean significant improvements for clubs throughout Co Wicklow and I am really delighted to have been able to assist.

"As Minister for Health and a local TD, I am determined to do all I can to assist people to live healthier lives. Making sports clubs more accessible is key to helping our community to be more active.

"I look forward to meeting with Minister Griffin regarding the larger Sports Capital Applications from Co Wicklow shortly.

Pres Bray project contributes to local biodiversity

As part of the All-Ireland Biodiversity Project, staff and students of Presentation College Bray in conjunction with Green Party Councillor Steven Matthews and Biodiversity Bray, have arranged for a 900m2 unused field within Presentation College Bray to grow wild over the summer months. This is the first time Bray (and perhaps Wicklow) has been included in the All Ireland Biodiversity Project.

Species of wildflower such as red clover and bush vetch, that had never been given the chance to establish themselves are now present in the area and making a real contribution to local biodiversity. Staff and students at Pres can now see for themselves the benefits of being proactive within their own communities with regards to biodiversity. Biodiversity Bray is currently seeking interest from residential associations, schools, and businesses that would like to participate in this scheme for the summer of 2020.

Open spaces of all sizes could be utilised. Interested groups should contact steven.matthews@greenparty.ie or keithmgordon@gmail.com



Pictured is Pres Bray groundskeeper John Dillon with Councillor Steven Matthews.

APPEAL AGAINST NURSING HOME DEVELOPMENT

An appeal has been lodged with An Bord Pleanála regarding a nursing home development on the former Dell site on the Boghall Road in Bray.

The planning application, submitted by Avonvard Limited, is for 'construction of a first phase of development consisting of a four storey nursing home and office building'.

The application was submitted to Wicklow County Council last October. The person against the development believes that Phase 1 of the development does not meet the objective in the Bray Local Area Plan which identifies the site for mixed use and high intensity employment uses, including 20,000 sqm of commercial and 150 residential units.

In a submission on the planning application they state "A nursing home is not a high intensity employment use and is effectively a residential use. The entire site would

therefore end up being developed as principally residential."

In a separate submission on the planning application, Cllr Joe Behan stated "I favour the development of this site for mixed use but I am concerned about the following issues; Height of the buildings relative to local residences; possible flooding of local residences by surface water emanating from the development; effect of the development on water pressure in the local area; roads and footpaths infrastructure and its ability to handle a development of this magnitude; Failure to include all elements of the proposed development of the full Dell site in this application, which would have allowed a complete assessment to be made of

the impact of the development in its totality; The potential destruction of mature trees on the site and the necessity to protect as many as possible; The impact of construction on the local residents and the necessity to ensure as little disruption as possible to local residential amenity."

Cllr Steven Matthews made a submission stating: "The proposed development does not comply with the specific objective for this site that 4 storey buildings would be located to the South and South West of the site. This objective was included in the zoning objective to protect visual amenity and views of Bray Head and to mitigate an over dominant visual impact and overlooking on the surrounding residents and school grounds".

The full development proposal is for the "construction of a first phase of development consisting of a four-storey nursing home building, accommodating 205 bedrooms with a total ground floor area of 10,440sqm, over a single level basement with a ground floor area of 2,228sqm. The proposal includes internal courtyards and terrace areas, and adjacent landscaped amenity space. A four storey office building, including a ground floor café (GFA of 175sqm), and 107 surface car parking spaces, 38 basement car parking spaces, 5 motorcycle spaces and 141 cycle spaces. Vehicular access will be via the existing entrance from Vevay Road."

The case is due to be decided in September.

Liverpool legends tasked with saving Greystones Utd from relegation

He played a key role in some memorable victories for the Boys in Green during a glittering international career. And now Jason McAteer is back in the spotlight once again after being tasked with saving 'no-hopers' Greystones Utd AFC from relegation in a new fly-on-the-wall documentary series.

McAteer and former Liverpool teammates John Barnes and John Aldridge attempt to turn round the fortunes of the rock-bottom Sunday league side in the latest BetVictor 'Training SOS' show - the popular youtube broadcasts where ex-professional players help out struggling teams.

The two-part series, which has been viewed nearly 500,000 times, was filmed over a month from late January when the team appeared to face certain relegation from the Leinster Senior Division 1 Sunday table, with just four draws and nine losses from their 13 games.

But team manager Martin Killilea said his team's prospects and his players' self-belief have since been transformed after their coaching sessions with the soccer legends, which also included a coaching session at Anfield, overseen by Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp.

Since being 'signed up' for Training SOS, which was filmed in association with Liverpool FC, the ailing side started winning games for the first time and quickly rose from bottom of the 14-team table to 8th at one stage.

And although the side has since slipped down to 10th position, a victory in their final game next week will ensure they avoid relegation - a feat which seemed highly improbable just a few weeks ago.

Killilea said: "We were dead and buried before Jason McAteer turned up,

By Nick Bramhill

but what he and the other Liverpool lads left us with was a new sense of confidence and self-belief.

"We've still a fight on our hands to avoid the drop, but the difference now is that we really believe in ourselves."

And reflecting on his experience with the Sunday league team, McAteer said in the documentary: "I'm a massive believer that team spirit can add something. Playing for Ireland all those years I did, we were never blessed with world-class players. We had a sprinkling, but what we had was this unbeliev-

able team spirit." He added: "To be honest, when I was first told about the Greystones story and the mess they were in, I just didn't know how they were going to change their fortunes around. Yes, we've given them some decent mentors over the last couple of weeks, but the reas stars are the players themselves.

"It's their hard work, dedication, character and a new-found team spirit that will ensure they retain their leagues status. Anything is possible from here."

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

The challenge - which will raise funds for a new clubhouse - will involve hundreds of participants taking part in an uninterrupted 24-hour game of football. The world record attempt kicks off at 6pm from June 21. For further

information, including details on how to take part, check out the club's website - www.guafc.ie.

The Training SOS episodes can be accessed on youtube or via Liverpool FC's website. Log onto www.liverpoolfc.com.



Pictured: Ryan Tubridy tries out some of the S.N.I. Bakes from Scoil Naomh Iosaf in Baltinglass, with pupils Erica Gleeson and Diarmuid Wolfe at the JEP (Junior Entrepreneur Programme) National Showcase Day in the RDS.

WATER REFILL STATIONS PROVE POPULAR

Water bottle filling stations installed by Wicklow County Council in three secondary schools last November aimed at replacing single use plastic have proven popular with students using them tens of thousands of times.

Colaiste Chraobh Abhann in Kilcoole had the highest use with bottles being refilled from the mains-fed fountain some 48,625 times in the first six months since installation.

The school reported that the station is in use all the time and is popular with both students and teaching staff. As a next step, the school is considering getting a second machine to ease congestion but has also put a reusable bottle on its 2019 book list for first year students.

The other schools - Colaiste Bhride in Carnew and St Mary's College, Arklow - also reported high usage.

All three schools found that the water refill stations have reduced the amount of plastic waste generated in their schools and that the project was enthusiastically embraced by students.

Funded by the Environmental Protection Agency under the National Waste Prevention Programme, the aim of the project was to displace single use plastics in our secondary schools.

While at primary level students commonly use refillable bottles and beakers, the inverse occurs at secondary where over 80 per cent either buy a drink in school or outside of school.

Surveys carried out by Wicklow County Council with the participating schools show that 50 per cent own a reusable bottle but that much less use one on a regular basis. The survey highlight that students were aware of the cost, health and environmental benefits to drinking refill water.

The project aimed to provide students in participating schools with an easy option to take the refill route.

The machines selected have a counter to measure usage. They have a bottle filling outlet as well as a traditional drinking fountain. The counters showed that all three machines were each used tens of thousands of times.

St Mary's College is looking at banning single use plastic bottles altogether from its campus while Colaiste Bhride were delighted to get the machine as it was a purchase they had been considering in order to support the ongoing work of their Green School committee.

All three schools found that the water refill stations have reduced the amount of plastic waste generated in their schools and that the project was enthusiastically embraced by students.

Wicklow County Council will continue to focus on eliminating single use plastics throughout the county, working with communities and schools.

Meanwhile, the Council is leading by example. Single use cups are being phased out and tumblers and reusable bottles will be supplied for use at refill stations throughout the organisation in the coming months.

Avoiding single use plastic is one way we can all take action on Climate Change.



Greystones Utd players and coaches with Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp and John Aldridge.

It's Good to Talk

We're all only human and at times it is all too easy to get bogged down with life. It is often difficult to avoid feeling overwhelmed, in need of a helping hand or some sound advice or guidance or even just a friendly ear to talk into or a shoulder to lean on. Fortunately, Co. Wicklow is full of amazing services with dedicated staff and volunteers who are there when you need them. It's good to talk.



Clare O'Nolan

Counsellor psychotherapist MIACP

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Catherine Morrow

"Sometimes difficulties or unhappiness are hard to overcome without support from others. It's often easier and more beneficial to talk to an experienced, qualified and accredited professional than to friends or family and I find that people are increasingly more open to the idea of counseling/therapy. Clients frequently want to discuss specific problems such as bereavement, bullying or low self esteem; others need to understand and address the causes of their anxiety, low mood, or feeling of isolation. Many people want to talk about relationships and family problems, while others need to explore troubling past experiences such as physical, emotional, or sexual abuse. The aims of the therapy vary, but include learning new ways of coping, gaining different perspectives, and achieving greater self-understanding. Every person and situation is unique, and as an integratively trained therapist, I use several approaches, including CBT (Cognitive Behavioral Therapy) and Art Therapy - working with each client in the way most suited to their needs."

Eileen Cannon

"Many people struggle with life. I offer a safe and confidential service to people who need help with their struggle," says Eileen Cannon.

"I am a qualified counselor/psychotherapist with many years of experience supporting people in coping with their lives. This can be a short-term struggle, a life-long struggle or somewhere in between. I am fully accredited with I.A.C.P. and engage in regular C.P.D. My clients receive a non-judgmental and accepting space where they can safely process their experiences and begin to change, if they decide to, what no longer benefits them.

"I work with people from 13 upwards and specialise in suicide ideation and trauma. I have my own private practice in Wicklow town and Arklow town." Email eileencannonwk@gmail.com or call 0868030593.

Make a positive mental health connection today

Poor mental health is touching our lives in ways it has never done before. People across all walks of our society are facing mental health struggles every day. Talking therapies have been proven to be an effective means of easing the effects of poor mental health.

The Irish Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (IACP) members are committed to promoting safe and effective talking therapy for all people living in Ireland, from any background of any age. They'd like to help all those in need to take first steps towards positive mental health by connecting them with their members. There are times in our lives when we or someone we know might struggle with mental health and need someone to talk to in a non-judgemental manner in

a safe environment. Someone who is a qualified, accredited and vetted mental health professional. Many people in this situation are unclear where to find a qualified professional. The IACP can help you to make this first connection. "When speaking with IACP staff, you can be assured of the strictest confidentiality. Call us today on 01 230 35 36 to help you find an accredited therapist in your area.

"Alternatively, you can visit www.iacp.ie, where you will see our online directory. In our directory, you can find a list of our members in your area. These members can help with a range of issues including: Anxiety, Bereavement, Trauma, Stress, Self-

Esteem Issues, Relationship Difficulties, Anger, Depression, Childhood Issues, Cancer Support, Work Related Issues, Addictions, Abuse, Adoption, Autism, Cultural issues, Dementia, Disability, Eating Disorders, Financial Issues, Infertility, Obsessions, Personal Growth, Phobias, PTSD, Sexuality, self-harm, Suicidal Feelings, Pregnancy.

"The IACP is the leading and largest professional body for counselling and psychotherapy in Ireland with over 4,200 members. Go to iacp.ie or call us on 01 230 35 36 today to take the first step to a positive mental health connection.

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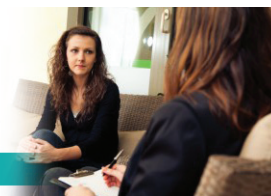
Key areas include:

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- Child-to-parent violence and aggression
- Jungian Sand Therapy

See www.inniu.ie for further details.

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It's Good to Talk



Wicklow Well Counselling and Psychotherapy

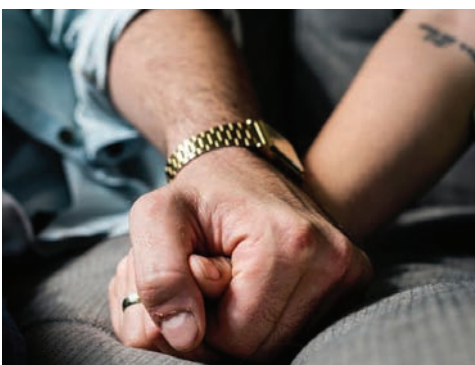
We know that healthy relationships are vital to our well-being and good mental health.

But do you find yourself having the same old argument with your partner that never seems to get resolved? Do you feel your partner never really 'gets you'? If you're experiencing relationship difficulties, it might be worth considering going for couples counselling.

A good couples counsellor will support you in relating better with each other, help you to increase your connection, and will guide you in stepping out of those vicious circles we all know too well. Couples counselling is usually a

shorter-term process than individual therapy, and requires a commitment from both partners. Whether you're starting out in a committed relationship, or you've been together for years, your relationship deserves a tune-up.

Martina Jones at Wicklow Well Counselling and Psychotherapy in Kilmacanogue provides Professional and Confidential Individual and Couple counseling in a private location, and is IACP Accredited. See www.wicklowwell.com for more details.



Johanne Kenny

Johanne Kenny is a fully qualified and accredited Clinical Psychotherapist.

She works with individuals, couples, children & adolescents and groups. Johanne has worked in private practice in County Wicklow since 2008.

In addition to a BSc Hons in Counselling and Psychotherapy, she holds Post Graduate qualifications in Trauma and Sexual violence, Cognitive Behaviour Therapy, Sexual Addiction and Dysfunction, Art Therapy, Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy, and Family Therapy.

Johanne also holds a Professional qualification in the Therapeutic use of Mindfulness in Psychotherapy. She has completed all 3 Levels of Clinical Training with the Gottman Method of Couples Therapy.

She has followed additional training in Court reporting for Expert Witness work, Psychotherapy and Neuroplasticity, Panic Attacks, Attachment Issues, Suicide Risk Assessment, Sand Play Therapy, Grief and Loss, Life Span Development, Management of Psychosis and Schizophrenia in Psychotherapy, Personality Disorders, Abnormal Psychology, Compassion Focused Therapy, Anger Management, Relationship Issues, Positive Psychology, Motivational Interviewing and Eating Disorders.

John Byrne Counselling & Psychotherapy

"The term 'Mental Health' describes our ability to cope with the challenges of life. Everybody experiences periods of positive and negative mental health across their life-time.

"Explanations of negative mental health are either biological, psycho-social, or a combination of the two. If you subscribe to the biological model, then medication is the solution, if you subscribe to the psycho-social model, then talking counselling/therapy is the solution. Talking therapies have proven to be effective in approximately 72% of cases.

"I have found that an integrative holistic approach works best with my clients. I encourage people to lay a foundation for positive mental health by focusing on diet, lifestyle, exercise and purpose in life, while supporting them to cope with, or find solutions to whatever is causing a barrier to their quality of life.

"I work with couples and individuals on issues related to stress/anxiety, depression, relationship issues, anger management and addiction."

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"For children and adults alike, daily life can bring challenges which leave us feeling stressed, anxious, overwhelmed and struggling to cope.

"At this time of year, we often see an increase in anxiety amongst children and young people as they face into exams and transitions, for example, from primary to secondary school," says Fiona Martin-Peel,

a Counsellor and Psychotherapist at Inniu Counselling in Newcastle.

"The increasing levels of anxiety experienced by primary school children in the last number of years has been well doc-

umented. As reported in the Irish Times (25th January 2018), a recent survey from the Irish Primary Principals' Network, which has been tracking feedback from Principals on children's mental health for

the past decade, voices concern in relation to the emotional wellbeing of pupils and highlights how anxiety has replaced neglect as one of the most serious problems facing children today. As a psychotherapist, I have witnessed this trend and work first hand with children and families to address these issues. It is important children are shown tools, both within the family and education system, to help them better manage stress and become proactive in caring for their own mental health. In this way the child, family, school, community, and society as a whole, benefit."

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William Cazasso and Thalita Marcolino at the Dancing for Dementia benefit night in aid of St. Joseph's Shankill, held in the Parkview Hotel.

Wicklow Parish Fete

Looking for something local to entertain the family on the June Bank Holiday weekend? Come to the annual Wicklow Parish Fete this Saturday, June 1st 11am to 4pm at East Glendalough School in Wicklow town.

The day is going to be jam-packed with fantastic activities for all ages! These include bouncy castles, face painting, numerous game stalls and Fire Brigade displays to keep the kids entertained. Browse the stalls including plants, 'Good as New' clothes, toys, books, bric-a-brac, country produce and cakes.

This year's fete also introduces new events. The Dog Show will have classes that include Best Puppy, Best Dog led by a child, Best Rescue dog, Best fancy-dressed dog and/or Owner, Dog Agility course and overall Supreme Champion. Wicklow Fete are delighted to have the WSPCA Sharpshill on board to judge the show.

The Touch rugby event will see teams from Wicklow Rugby club display their skill as they battle for the honour of Fete Champions. Players are welcome to join teams on the day.

Enjoy hot food and refreshments while watching shows, live music and much much more! Entry is only €2, kids go free, and free parking is available so get there early! Visit and like their Facebook page www.facebook.com/WicklowParishSummerFete

SCHOOLS GET GREEN LIGHT FOR NEW ACCOMMODATION

A number of Wicklow schools are set to grow having been approved for additional accommodation.

The approved schools are East Glendalough School, Wicklow Town (Refurbishment of Home Economics Room); St Michaels & St Peters Jun School, Arklow (Conversion to create ASD); Dominican College, Wicklow Town (3xScience labs, 1x Design Communications room, Conversion of 2 science labs into classrooms); Marino School NS, Bray (Refurbishment to create Mainstream classroom, & New build of Mainstream classroom inc ensuite toilets) Carnew NS, Carnew (2x Classroom SEN base).

In addition to this, the following schools have been approved for emergency works: St Brigid's NS, Annacurra, SN Padraig Naofa, St Joseph's NS, Realt na mara, Glenart College Arklow, Coolfancy Tinahely, Hollywood NS, Gaelcholaiste na Mara, Wicklow Educate

Together NS.

"I am very pleased to report that the Department of Education and Skills have approved a large number of schools for extra classrooms, which will result in extra space and resources for the pupils and teachers," said Andrew Doyle TD.

"Detailed letters will issue to school authorities, principals or Boards of Management to notify them of the grant and the work that is to be carried

out. This is a good outcome for these schools which deserve praise for the level of work they would have invested in putting their application together. This is also testament to the Government's commitment to investing in all our counties. We need to see this investment continue into all our educational facilities and institutions in Ireland South, right up to third level."

Annual Lions Golf Classic

Wicklow and District Lions Club's main fundraising event is the annual Lions Golf Classic. This is vital so the club can continue to help various private individuals as well as local organisations. The golf outing of the year will take place in Blainroe Golf Course on Friday June 7th.

Club president Pat O'Brien is hoping and depending on huge support for this year's event. He is hoping the main support will come from golfers in the area as well as Lions supporters from other parts of the country.

If any local business or private individual would like to help with sponsorship or tee boxes no matter how small please contact any member of the Lions.

Culinary Excellence Award for the Garden Rooms at Druids Glen

Druids Glen Hotel & Golf Resort's Garden Rooms and Bar has been awarded an AA Rosette in recognition of culinary excellence. With the two AA Rosettes already held for their Hugo's Restaurant, this brings their total to three.

The Garden Rooms and Bar opened last April as part of the most recent refurbishment to the Resort. It was the first alteration to the original footprint of the hotel, extending the former area of the existing bar and pavilion. From the outdoor terrace you can take advantage of the magnificent view onto the gardens and woodlands, and the exterior is reflected in the interior design with dark green leathers, subtle blues, London pinks, rich walnut and brass.

A delicious menu devised by Anthony Duggan, Executive Chef, and Matti Reuter, Garden Rooms and Bar Manager, is updated seasonally to offer a variety of dishes including light bites, salads, pastas and grills. More recently, Druids Glen also partnered with their neighbours and Ireland's favourite twins, the Happy Pear, to offer guests a range of vegan options on the menu including Cauliflower Wings, the renowned Buddha Bowl, Grilled

Jackfruit Vegan "Pulled Pork" Sandwich, Vegan Pizza and Vegan Black Forest Cheesecake. The Garden Rooms and Bar has ample space for guests to unwind and relax, with the room more than doubling in size since last year's extension. In addition, it is now the perfect destination for local South Dublin and Wicklow residents to enjoy their day or evening. Speaking about the award, CEO of Druids Glen Hotel & Golf

Resort, Edward Stephenson said, "We are absolutely delighted to have been awarded an AA Rosette for the Garden Rooms and Bar. The award is a testament to the service and food offering consistently being presented in the Garden Rooms and it is a well-deserved recognition to the entire team who have been working hard for the past 12 months to achieve this. We are extremely proud to now hold three AA Rosettes in Druids Glen."



Druids Glen staff celebrate their AA Rosette in recognition of culinary excellence.

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K&K Windows LTD

The team at K&K Windows Ltd. are all excited and ready to go for their annual Open Day at the show rooms in Craanford, Gorey, which takes place on Saturday June 1st (12pm to 5pm) and celebrates K&K Windows' successful year in business.

All are welcome to come along and enjoy the fun for all the family, with special exclusive discounts that are for just one day only.

So if you are looking for that special piece of energy efficient affordable double or treble glazed unit options to make your house a home, from one of Ireland's largest fabricators and installers of uPVC and aluminium products for both residential and commercial projects, look no further than K&K Windows.

"We're really looking forward to customers bringing their families along. We are a family run business so this is very important to us. This year festivities will be even bigger and better," said Caoimhe Kenny of K&K Windows.

"Customers can also benefit from 30% off AND further offers



Pictured are Caoimhe and Sorcha Kenny of K&K Windows



cater to customer needs, alongside Kenny fuels, while Michelle on hand for individual drawings.

K&K Windows do not just have its 24 years in business to celebrate, but also its recent recognition of winning Family Business 2019 at the at the prestigious All-Ireland Business Foundation's annual All-Ireland Business Summit and awards, which was held in Croke Park earlier this month

"We were delighted to receive the award, to add to our back to back as Business All-Stars, we are the only window and door company in the country to have this," Caoimhe explained.

K&K Windows have also shown themselves to be a good choice at the Wexford Business Awards, having won awards for being a Family Run Business as well as Corporate Social Responsibility.

exclusive to the day, and quality is always guaranteed as we sell, manufacture and install all of our products," Caoimhe added.

Now in its twenty-fourth year, the team take exceptional pride in the work they do and customer service they provide.

The award-winning company have all types of uPVC and aluminium products for both residential and commercial projects. Their range also includes the Guardian Warm Roof and Atlas Roof collections.

All hardware products are sourced from leading European suppliers and all glass is sourced from Irish suppliers, with over 72 types of glass in the range.

"Our staff are completely and utterly committed to the best design and quality," Caoimhe added.

Adult customers will enjoy champagne on arrival at the Open Day, while the children can enjoy a bouncy-castle and other activities throughout the day.

"We want to make sure that everyone feels welcome, there'll be lots of finger food and refreshments as well, as well as get a price, customers can avail of fur-

ther offers available in house exclusively on the day," said Caoimhe.

Staff have proven themselves to be customer focused and during the Open Day, customers will have to opportunity to explore the showroom, get a real life touch and feel for the products.

The sales reps will be on hand to assist with any queries one might have, there is never any harm in browsing even if you're only thinking about it changing your windows or doors.

There will be a South East Radio broadcast, which the team are all looking forward to while the Wine Buff

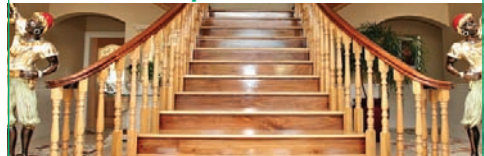


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Caoimhe Kenny of K&K Windows shows the bifold doors with blinds in glass

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Two Wicklow students have been presented with top awards in this year's 65th Texaco Children's Art Competition. Pictured is Naoise Hennessy, a 16-year old student from Coláiste Bhríde, Carnew, who has been chosen overall winner of this year's Competition, taking first prize in the senior 16-18 years age category. Presenting her with the award is Chairman of the judging panel, Professor Gary Granville and James Twohig, Director Ireland Operations at Valero. Another winner from Wicklow, who received a Special Merit Award at a ceremony held in Enfield recently, is Eimear Carvill (15), from Loreto Secondary School, Bray.

Art Exhibition by Greystones Art Group

A 'water' themed exhibition by Greystones Art Group opens May 28th at the Signal Art Centre, Bray. The exhibition features 90 paintings which will be on display until 9th June.

This is the first time that Greystones Art Group has exhibited in this well known Bray gallery and they are delighted to be using this venue to present a group show of their member's artwork, amateur and professional. The artworks span generations, mediums and disciplines yet all are united under the banner of water.

The active art group is based in Greystones and regularly draws inspiration from their proximity to the Irish Sea and the lakes of Wicklow. The

group has transferred to canvas ideas and emotions evoked from their interpretation of water using oils, watercolours, inks, tempura and mixed media.

Asked about the art exhibition, a Greystones Art Group spokesperson said: "we are delighted to be exhibiting for the first time in the Signal Art Centre. This year has been a really exciting time as the group is diversifying and opening up to new opportunities; including more exhibitions,

inspiring demonstrations, outdoor painting sessions and we're working on a series of creative workshops." She continued; "to be able to show in a well respected venue such as the Signal Art Centre is a real benefit for our group and gives us a great opportunity to share our group's talent to a wider audience. As it is a group exhibition the work is diverse and there is sure to be something for everyone to enjoy."

Teallach by Jim Morrison: a retrospective

An exhibition of work by Bray resident and founder and board member of Signal Arts Centre Jim Morrison is being held in Signal from Monday 10th June - Sunday 23rd June.

Jim Morrison, a native of Co. Kildare, graduated with a BA Fine Art in Painting from NCAD in 1983. He exhibited in the RHA and in various shows in Dublin, Wicklow, Kildare and elsewhere. His work is in the collection of Kildare County Council as well as private collectors.

This selection of his work has been put together with the kind permission of his collectors and family and it is the first time that they have been shown together.

Jim had a meticulous realist style which took in themes from portraiture to the military. His attention to detail reflects his interest in the structures both of and by the society we live in. He was fascinated by the inner workings of the human mind and this can be seen in the portrait work where the sitter often seems remote from the viewer, concerned with their own moment in time.

Discovering the artist's works has been a journey in itself. Just finding the owners and locations of Jim's drawings and paintings revealed an intriguing story of personal interconnections and how an artist's works continue to reverberate as they become part of the weave and weft of the everyday. The Irish word "Teallach" used for the title of the exhibition means hearth and also reflects the cooperative effort of the "meitheal" of friends and family who planned the show.



Sea, Sky, Paint Exhibition in Bray

Sea, Sky, Paint is the title of a forthcoming exhibition at Signal Arts Centre by Eugene De Leastar, from Monday 24th June - Sunday 7th July 2019.

Eugene (Eoin) (Eugenio) was born in Cork and now lives and has a studio on Slievenamon in Co. Tipperary. He has a special affinity with Italy and has painted many works on Venice. His solo shows include ALCI, Loro Piceno Italy, Origin Gallery Dublin, Wexford Arts centre, Art Hive Cork, Turks & Caicos, Garter Lane, Waterford, Univeristy College Cork and The Narrow Space, Clonmel. He has participated in group shows in

Bled, Slovenia; Triofiac, Austria; Peoria, Illinois, USA; Collyer-Bristow, London; Irish Arts Centre, London; Ward Nasse, New York. His work is also religious and allegorical and he has written several pamphlets on art theory including 'Problems of Truth for the Painter'. His most recent work is based on residences in Cill Rialaig and studying the sea at Lettergesh Connemara which have produced the series 'Sky, Sea, Paint.'

"These works relate to recent stormy weather around the coasts of Waterford, Connemara and especially at the artist retreat of Cill Rialaig, in Kerry. A recent trip around the Skelligs left a lasting impression on me of the seas' overwhelming power and cantankerous nature. I have never gone onto the island rock of Skellig Michael as I feel ill at ease approaching such a spiritual place. But our relationship with the sea is an elemental

part of our nature and evocative paintings of the sea for its own sake were a significant part of the Romantic Movement. For painters of the figure, a basic understanding of anatomy is essential, and I have begun to learn that a study of the anatomy of the wave is also vital for sea painting. I have been much influenced in this by the works of the Great American marine painter Frederick Waugh. The Sky, Sea, Paint series relates in the main to my

attempts to capture something of the movement of the sea, mostly when it is angry and sometimes when it is wistful and evocative. I like that the elemental potency of great masses of water can be remembered in the sloppy viscous nature of paint on canvas. Sometimes it works; puddles of paint can recreate the shapes of water. But only for a moment, for the sea is ever changing, dangerous, tempting, relentless."

BEST OF LUCK TO VOICES OF BRAY COMMUNITY CHOIR

Voices of Bray Community Choir will celebrate their 6th series of concerts in the Mermaid Arts Centre on 6th, 7th & 8th June.

As always, the proceeds from Voices of Bray concerts are donated to charity. This year the Shauna Kavanagh Foundation (thshaunakavanaghfoundation.com) is the beneficiary. This charity supports people who face long term health challenges, in particular cystic fibrosis, an illness endured by the late Shauna Kavanagh, who lived in Bray. This year's programme will include songs from Joni Mitchell, Billy Joel, Radiohead, Rodgers & Hammerstein, ELO (and many more), and from shows such as The Greatest Showman, South Pacific and My Fair Lady.

Voices of Bray was established in 2013 by John Ivory, the choir's Musical Director. He was aware of the therapeutic benefits of singing. here is an incredible variety of reasons as to why people join Voices of Bray but the bottom line is that 138 members meet weekly in the Taylor Centre, courtesy of Sunbeam Services, where they rehearse and enjoy the company of one another. Tickets for the concerts are selling fast. Contact the Mermaid Theatre at www.mermaidartscentre.ie or 01-2724030.

Strolling Through Ulysses!

Strolling Through Ulysses! is a one-man show that tells the fun-filled story of Bloomsday - June 16th 1904 - the iconic day around which James Joyce's Ulysses is based. It comes to the Whale Theatre in Greystones on Friday 21st June at 8pm.

Written and performed by Robert Gogan Strolling Through Ulysses! guides you through the curious events and quirky characters of Ulysses, in a humorous, entertaining and informative manner, with extracts from the novel which best illustrate the various aspects of Joyce's writing - the comical, the descriptive and the complex - without compromising the integrity of the great book.

Joyce, speaking about Ulysses once famously declared, 'there is not one serious line in it.' Strolling Through Ulysses! certainly proves that!

Bawdy, irreverent and great fun!

So hold on to your hats and take a deep breath as Robert Gogan takes you on a 75 minute whistle-stop tour through the fun and laughter which is the backbone of James Joyce's extraordinary and celebrated novel.

Over 16's only. Doors 7pm. Tickets €16/€14. See www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550.



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Joanna Hamilton, Mary Burbage, Sahoko Blake, Stephanie Fox, and Mary Aldridge at Feila Chill Mhantain which was held in Wicklow Town.

Wicklow Girl Guides' great day out at Cool Planet Experience

Cool Planet Experience played host to almost 150 Girl Guides, Brownies and Ladybirds recently as part of an annual gathering of groups in the Wicklow area.

Children from Ashford, Bray, Belmont, Delgany, Enniskerry, Greystones, Newcastle and Wicklow took part in the one-hour experience at the European Museum of the Year-nominated Cool Planet, as well as enjoying 'stomp rocket' and 'miniature greenhouse' workshops, enabling them to obtain two

badges on the day in the areas of STEM and environmental awareness.

"The tagline of Irish Girl Guides is 'Giving Girls Confidence' and this is done through games, crafts, badges and outdoor activities," said organiser Mary Byrne. "In recent years we have been developing badges in the area of STEM and environmental awareness, encouraging girls to believe they can be whatever they wish to be as they grow up, and our day out at Cool Planet tied in perfectly with this."

All groups are run by volunteer leaders and meet once a week. Brownies and Guides can also take part in holidays away, either indoors or camping (for Guides). These holidays give a greater opportunity for the girls to learn independence and more about the natural environment.

"Cool Planet Experience is a fun and inspirational experience for all ages," said centre manager, Aine O'Mahony. "This summer we are offering a 3-hour experience combining the Cool Planet Experience tour plus a choice of two workshops, both of which are educational, hands-on and fun for groups. It is an ideal day out for youth summer projects, sports teams and language schools."

Wicklow garden designers among leading creators at Bloom

A total of three garden designers from Wicklow will create stunning show gardens at this year's Bloom festival which will celebrate its thirteenth year from 30th May to 3rd June in Phoenix Park.

Ruaidhrí Bashford, Wicklow; Robert Moore, Kilmacanogue; and Tunde Perry, Calary are among those featured at this year's event; while in the Food Village, seven Wicklow-based food and drinks producers will be exhibiting at Bloom.

The celebrated horticulture, food and family festival, which attracted over 120,000 visitors last year, will feature 22 show gardens, 14 postcard gardens, over 100 Irish food and drink producers, 25 plant nurseries, 25 live cookery demonstrations with some of Ireland's best-known chefs and some 100 retailers, all within a 70 acre site.

Ruaidhrí Bashford is an artist, designer, educator and plantsman from Wicklow. A graduate of the School of Horticulture at National Botanic Gardens, he has designed the garden, 'Moving Forward - Building My Best Possible Life' for

Cheshire Ireland. This garden aims to inspire people to consider the importance of living in a home of one's own, whether that is in a residential setting or in a clustered setting. Cheshire Ireland supports adults with physical and neurological conditions and its ethos is to allow people to live their best possible lives on their own terms.

Robert Moore is a garden designer from Kilmacanogue. He has designed 'Memories are made of this - Dementia: Understand Together Garden' for the HSE. This garden creates a space where people living with dementia can reminisce in a welcoming and supportive way. The memory shed, used in many gardens for storage, becomes a relaxing place that allows visitors to access memories and share them in a comfortable setting.

Tunde Perry is a garden designer based in Calary. She has

designed the Marie Keating Foundation 'Breath of Life' Garden. This garden tells the story of lung cancer, Ireland's biggest cancer killer, with 2,600 cases diagnosed each year. However, with increased awareness of symptoms and innovative new treatments, the garden also reflects that there is much to be hopeful about.

Bord Bia's Food Village will be bursting with more than 100 Irish food and drink exhibitors in the Food Market and Bloom Inn with many new companies and new products set to launch at the event. Representing Wicklow are: Janet's Country Farm, Kilcoole; O'Hanlon Herbs, Glenealy; Miena's Handmade Nougat, Castlesalla; 250Kal Foods; Wicklow Brewery, Redcross and Wicklow Way Wines from Newtownmountkennedy.



Tunde Perry is a garden designer based in Calary. She has designed the Marie Keating Foundation 'Breath of Life' Garden at Bloom.

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Diarmuid Gavin will feature in the festival's finale concert at St. Kevin's Church, Glencree

Nature writing festival programme launched

An exciting new festival for County Wicklow - The Shaking Bog Nature Writing Festival - will take place in the Glencree Valley on 22nd & 23rd June. The festival programme was officially launched last Wednesday at Enniskerry Library.

The brand new midsummer festival of nature writing will be awakening and enlivening the valley with a diverse offering of events. From poetry readings to conversations, workshops to nature trails, creative writing for children to musical interludes - this festival will offer an immersive and enriching experience for literature and nature lovers alike.

National and world renowned artists and writers will be welcomed to the Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation, Fighting Words Wicklow and Knockree Hostel.

Names worthy of note include: Britain's favourite nature writer (and farmer) John Lewis-Stempel,

award-winning poet Pascale Petit, poet and official "national treasure" Paul Durcan, celebrated writer Carlo Gebler, Wicklow-based author and naturalist Declan Murphy, Emmy award-winning wildlife cinematographer Theo Jebb and children's author Shane Hegarty.

There will be a feast of opportunities for children with a very special 'Young Shakers' day-long event at Aurora House Glencree, presented in association with Fighting Words. This event includes songwriting, graphic fiction and creative workshops as well as storytelling, bird and bat box building, scavenger hunts and a special grand finale event. Children will also feature in their own

Budding Writers Reading Event at Curtlestown School.

A special tribute is also planned for the Bray resident, the extraordinary poet Shirley McClure who died recently, with readings and contributions by poets Jane Clarke and Katie Donovan.

To top it all off the festival finale will be a concert of music and readings at St. Kevin's Church, Glencree featuring the wonderful Liam O'Maonlai with guests including Mary Coughlan, The Square Pegs, Diarmuid Gavin; Katie Donovan; the Fugato Quartet and others.

The festival is funded by Wicklow County Council and County Wicklow

Partnership Leader Catherine Nunes, who also founded the acclaimed Dublin Dance Festival said "I am extremely excited to curate a festival within my own local community. Living here in such extraordinarily beautiful landscape has been both my sustenance and my inspiration for this event. I wanted to do something that would reawaken our connection to the natural world in an intimate and meaningful way. But I also hope that The Shaking Bog will reflect the serious quality and excellence of the nature writing that is being published today and for the festival events to be both thoughtful and thought-provoking."

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CLASSIFIEDS

- Recruitment
- Planning
- Notices

DUE TO THE SALE OF OUR CURRENT RENTED APARTMENT, YOUNG HARDWORKING COUPLE WITH A TODDLER URGENTLY REQUIRE 2 BEDROOM RENTAL

Must be on Public Transport for Commute to Work. On HAP Scheme, with Landlord and Work References in Hand. We must find something by May 31st or we will be homeless!

PLEASE CONTACT BRENDAN ON 089 7060501 OR NICOLE ON 083 3516095 IF YOU CAN HELP!

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Planning permission sought for the following:

1. Conversion of existing first floor retail area to 4 no. Apartments; consisting of 2 no. 1 Bed and 2 no. 2 Bed units.
 2. Removal of existing fire escape door and fire escape stairs to rear elevation.
 3. Alterations to existing windows to first floor elevations and installation of new windows to front and rear elevations.
 4. Provision of new rooflights to Apartments and Corridor to existing roof.
 5. Use of existing deck to rear of building as open space to Apartments with car-parking under.
 6. Alterations to existing ground floor external door on Dunnes Lane.
 7. Provision of cycle parking and bin storage to rear of building and all above with associated siteworks, at Kearons Paint and Hardware DIY Supplies Dunnes Lane Castle Park Arklow County Wicklow for Roger Tyrrell.
- 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, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made 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.

YOUR AD HERE To Advertise Please Call us on 01-2869111

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I Louise Meldon intend to apply for permission the construction of a new dwelling, garage, new section of laneway, upgrade of existing entrance, wastewater treatment system and soil polishing filter and associate works at Killough Lower, Kilmacanogue, 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.

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.

Boats not removed from Pollaphuca Power Station by the 7th June will be disposed of through the appropriate licensed facility.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Planning permission sought for revisions to previously approved planning permission reg. ref. 17/1211 for attic conversion with change of design to include dormer window to front and rear and all associated works to 62 Hollybrook Park, Bray, Co. Wicklow for Ossie and Louise Burke. 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 Niall Meldon intend to apply for permission the construction of a new dwelling, garage, new section of laneway, upgrade of existing entrance, wastewater treatment system and soil polishing filter and associate works at Killough Lower, Kilmacanogue, 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@alphaplansdesign.com) Seeks planning permission for two dwellings with connection to services and all associated works at Marlton Road, Wicklow, Co. Wicklow for P. Salter Construction. 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 a dwelling, waste water treatment system to EPA standards, garage, new entrance, and associated works at Tomriland, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow for L. Cosgrave and A. Hooper Cosgrave. 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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