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Tuesday 11th June 2019

5 Eglinton Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow

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TAYLOR MADE FOR STATUE?

Is it time Katie Taylor was honoured with a statue? After becoming the undisputed lightweight champion of the world, Katie was welcomed back to Bray with a massive homecoming event on Bray Seafront on Friday evening. However, many believe there is more that can and should be done.

Numerous people including public representatives are now calling for a statue.

John Brady TD has called for a statue, which he says should be erected in the centre of Bray, while Cllr Joe Behan put a Notice of Motion on the first meeting of the newly elected Council on Friday, asking that 'some kind of permanent artistic feature' be created.

Cllr Behan told *Wicklow Times* that that he had put the question to Katie's family to think about. "The idea of a statue came from the people of Bray and I think it's a

good one, but I would not wish to proceed with it without Katie's blessing". Cllr Behan stressed that any sculpture, statue or monument would only be done with Katie's approval and consultation.

Deputy Brady has said a number of measures should be given consideration.

On Saturday June 1st, Taylor made history by unifying all of the belts in her lightweight division when she beat Delfine Persoon of Belgium in Madison Square Garden.

Deputy Brady said the victory made Taylor "the

greatest Irish sports-person of all time".

"In the past Katie has been granted the freedom of County Wicklow, Daniel Day Lewis is the only other person to hold this accolade. Numerous civic receptions have also been held to honour her many achievements. In 2013 I also proposed a special 'Katie Taylor Sports Scholarship'. This is now in place and is run every year by Wicklow County Council and is awarded to a young Wicklow sports-person to help them excel at their sport.

"I have contacted



Sisters Louise and Bridget Beirne from Bray are pictured getting off to a running start for Cystic Fibrosis Ireland in the 2019 Women's Mini Marathon. Cystic Fibrosis Ireland's biggest annual fundraising campaign, the event saw hundreds of women hit the ground running to raise funds for cystic fibrosis services.



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Wicklow County Council and have asked them to look at a number of things that should be done to mark the fantastic achievement by Katie Taylor. I believe a statue should be erected in the centre of Bray to honour Katie. I also think that renaming a road in the town, possibly the Southern Cross Road would be very fitting."

Deputy Brady continued "I have also proposed that Ballywaltrim Recreational Park in Bray would be renamed the 'Katie Taylor Recreational Park'. As a young sports-person the park is where Katie would have trained and is central to her community of Ballywaltrim. Her 2012 London Olympic final was also shown on big screens to thousands of supporters in the park."

Stephen Donnelly TD

recently said that Minister for Sport, Shane Ross needs to address the lack of attention given to our national sporting heroes.

"Katie Taylor is just one of a number of Irish national sporting treasures. As well as being an outstanding amateur, she has reached the heights of world champion in the pro ranks. She is a true icon and a fantastic role model for young children."

Speaking after Katie's world-beating win, Mr Frank Curran, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, said "Katie is a true champion and a wonderful Ambassador for Bray and Wicklow and it is fitting that the Council should host a homecoming for her to mark her wonderful win."

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Jean and James Connolly at the Bray Vintage and Classic Car Show on Bray Seafront, inside their 1972 VW Dormobile. Pic: Joe McQuillan

What's Happening...

Let's talk about climate change

Community groups and individuals are invited to Kilcoole Community Centre on Monday 24th June at 7pm for a meeting about climate change. It will be an opportunity to hear about Wicklow County Council's Climate Adaptation Plan and to develop a community submission. For more information or to book a seat, call Helen on 087 1895145, or Grainne on 086 048 7434, or email countywicklowppn@gmail.com

Laragh public meeting

There will be a public meeting in the Brockagh Resource Centre, Laragh on Monday the 11th of June at 7.30pm. It will give the community a chance to voice any concerns on the proposed plans in Laragh and Glendalough Visitor Access Plans. Everyone is welcome.

Laragh and Glendalough Visitor Access Plans

Proposed plans are still available to view in the lobby of the Brockagh Resource Centre. Following the recent public meeting an extension to submit any concerns from the community may now be emailed to roadtrans@wicklow-coco.ie before 12pm on 20th June. There are substantial changes to the re-structuring of the area and it would be in everyone's interest to view the proposed plans before works commence.

Go For Life

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

Aughrim Active Retirement

There will be no yoga class for June. The group is planning a day out before the summer break. This will be to The Royal Oak Whiskey Distillery and the Arboretum in Leiglin Bridge on Friday 28th June. Monday walks continue.

Wicklow Parish thank community

Wicklow Parish would like to thank the community of Wicklow for supporting the Wicklow Parish Fete on June 1st.

The day was a great success and enjoyed by all. They said, "We would like to thank East Glendalough for the use of their school and grounds, Iarnród Éireann Irish Rail who gave us complimentary use of their car park and Irish Red Cross for proving First Aiders. The Wicklow Fire Brigade, Wicklow Rugby Club, Wicklow Hockey Club and the WSPCA Sharpeshill for helping us provide the family entertainment on the day. Wicklow Parish would like to thank all the individuals on the committee and who volunteered on the day. Many months of planning and hard work contributed to the day's great success!"

Annual German Society of County Wicklow Bus Trip

This annual bus trip takes place on Saturday August 10th and this year the destination is County Wexford.

The bus will depart AIB Bank Greystones at 9.00 am and pick up Southern Cross at 9.15am. It will arrive the Irish National Heritage Centre Ferrycarrig at 10.30am, starting the day with some tea/coffee and scones. Then: 10.45 Guided Tour of the Park; 12.00 Depart Park; 12.30 Visit St Aidan's Cathedral Enniscorthy designed by Pugin; 13.15 three Course lunch Riverside Park Hotel; 14.30 Visit 1798 Exhibition Site for a Guided Tour; 15.30 Free time in Enniscorthy; 16.30 Depart for home.

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Pop-up gallery bringing contemporary art to Wicklow Town

Wicklow Town is about to get a facelift with the exciting arrival of a new contemporary art gallery.

Co-founded by local artists Louise Cherry and Stephanie Sloan, The Venue Gallery will open its doors for the first time on Saturday June 22nd.

Both working from Wicklow-based home studios, Louise and Stephanie formed the gallery as a result of a mutual desire to form better supports and visibility for contemporary artists in county Wicklow.

The gallery aims to combine the provision of an exhibition space along with creating a community space for anyone interested in developing their knowledge in the visual arts.

"Wicklow Town really needs a centre like this, there is nothing locally to support contemporary local artists, and there are lots of us! We would love this space to be open all year round, however, we feel the town cannot sustain this, so we came up with the idea of a permanent pop up gallery," says Louise.

The gallery's inaugural exhibition 'Catching Light' featuring the work of three Wicklow artists, prints by Stephanie Sloan, paintings by Louise Cherry and ceramics by Cathy Burke will open Saturday 22nd



Louise Cherry and Stephanie Sloan, co-founders of The Venue gallery.

June and run for four weeks.

Trading online and as a biannual pop up gallery in Wicklow Town, The Venue Gallery's first exhibition will run over June and July this year. The gallery will also host talks, workshops and events which invite further engagement with the arts. The workshops are open to all levels, places are limited and booking essential.

Louise has exhibited

nationally and internationally in solo and group shows. With a masters in Visual Arts Practice from The Institute of Art, Design and Technology and a degree in Photography from The Dublin Institute of Technology, Louise divides her time between painting, photography and teaching working from her home studio in Wicklow Town.

Stephanie is a graduate of the Royal College of

Art, London and the National College of Art and Design, Dublin, Stephanie Sloan is an illustrator and printmaker working from her studio in Co. Wicklow.

The Venue Gallery can be found at 57 Main Street, Wicklow Town. A full list of workshops including print making, photography, painting and drawing for all levels can be seen at www.thevenue-gallery.com.



Members of Team Purple House Cancer Support at the VHI Women's Mini Marathon. In a statement after the marathon thanking the Team Purple House participants, Purple House said "Thanks to your support, families availing of Purple House's services will know that they are not alone and thanks to your efforts will receive vital support services such as Counselling, play therapy for children, hospital transport & other practical support services & programmes."

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BRAY FUNERAL FIRM'S LIMOS HIRED OUT FOR DONALD TRUMP VISIT

While not everybody was supportive of US President Donald Trump's visit to Ireland, one North Wicklow company had every right to smile.

The Bray funeral company JP Ward & Sons, based in Little Bray, got some business out of the visit, for the rental of some of their

luxury Mercedes limousines.

It was reported that 830,000 was paid in four separate payments in advance of the visit by Donald and Melania Trump to Ireland, for their transport around the country during their visit, according to USASpending.Gov (an official website that tracks federal spending to ensure US taxpayers can see how their money is being used). However it's understood this was for the total cost and was distributed among several companies whose transport services were used.

The Mercedes E class limousines were booked for 28 days between May 24th and June 22nd

even though they were only needed for three days. This was due to Trump's travel plans not being finalised until shortly before the trip.

JP Ward & Sons was established in 1932 and provides complete funeral services, covering Wicklow, South Dublin and surrounding areas. They say they have invested heavily over the years in state-of-the-art hearses and luxurious limousines based on the latest model Mercedes E class.

Their range includes large seven-seater passenger limos and smaller four-seater passenger saloons. It is not known if the company's drivers were used during the visit.



Connie Costello at the Bray Vintage and Classic Car Show on Bray Seafront. Pic: Joe McQuillan

Chris de Burgh puts Enniskerry home up for sale

Bushy Park, the Enniskerry home of Chris de Burgh, has gone up for sale at a price of €12.5 million.



Bushy Park, Enniskerry

The 12-bedroom 19th century country home sits on a property of 27 acres close to Enniskerry village in the Dublin Mountains and is being sold through David Ashmore of Sotheby's

specification and layout suited to 21st century living. An interlinking suite of fine reception rooms are ideal for entertaining, but equally of a scale so as to be comfortable for family living".

International Realty.

The house is from the late Georgian period and comprises over 23,000 square feet of accommodation. There is also a guest house and Gate Lodge. A 'leisure complex' extends to over 12,000 square feet and includes a pool, home cinema, music studio and games room.

Bushy Park was completed around 1815 and was comprehensively restored and extended in the mid 1990s by De Burgh and his wife Diane, who bought it from the Bisgood family.

London-based interior designer Simn Kingi was commissioned to oversee the design of the interiors. It's now described as having "a pleasing combination between elegant Georgian design and a

New car registrations are down

In Co. Wicklow, new car registrations are down over 13% compared to last year, with 1643 new car registrations this year compared to 1898 for the same period last year.

Official statistics released last week by the Society of the Irish Motor Industry (SIMI) show that total new car registrations for the month of May nationally are up 4.7% (6,341) when compared with May 2018 (6,055). New car registrations year to date are down 7.6% (79,343) on the same period last year (85,868).

Commenting on the registrations figures Brian Cooke, SIMI Director General said "Registrations for the month of May, both cars and light commercial vehicles, showed an improvement on May of last year, although the increase in numerical terms was relatively small. However, sales overall year to date have been disappointing with both business and consumer Brexit related uncertainty contributing to dampened demand for new vehicles. As we move into June the Industry is now focused on preparations for the start of the July 192 registration period. This will see a variety of strong offers to consumers across all brands, and in this environment, consumers will have a wide choice of cars to choose from at a really competitive price."



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Theresa O'Brien, Michael McNamara, Robert Kelly, lifeguard Cathal McRuari, and Kiara Kavanagh are pictured at the raising of Brittas Bay's Blue Flag last week

Irish Water commence works in Bray as part of Leakage Reduction Programme

Irish Water, working in partnership with Wicklow County Council, has commenced works to replace ageing water mains on Vevay Road in Bray. The works are due for completion by August 2019.

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. 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 950 metres of aged cast iron and problematic water mains with high density polyethylene (plastic) pipes.

The section of works will take place on Vevay Road between the junctions with Killarney Road and Putland Road. 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. Where the existing service connections on the public side are lead these will be replaced as part of the improvement works.

Irish Water has planned the works in short sections in order to limit impact on customers. Traffic management, including a stop-go system, will be in place during this time. Local and emergency traffic will be maintained at all times. 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.

The schedule of works is as follows: Tuesday, June 4th to Friday, June 7th (8am - 8pm); Monday, June 10th to Friday, June 21st (24hr works); Saturday June 22nd and Sunday June 23rd (8am - 8pm); Monday, June 24th to Friday, July 5th (24hr works); Saturday, July 6th and Sunday July 7th (8am - 8pm); Monday, July 8th to Friday, July 26th (8am - 8pm).

Commenting on the works, Joe Carroll, Irish Water's Leakage Reduction Programme Regional Lead said, 'The replacement of these ageing water mains in Vevay Road, Bray will improve security of supply for local residents and busi-

nesses 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.

JUST 4% OF STUDENTS SAY LEAVING CERT IS FAIR

The Junior and Leaving Certificate Exams continue this week after starting last Wednesday. A report on the future of the Leaving Certificate published earlier this year by the National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals (NAPD) found that the majority of students want continuous assessment and just a very small percentage of students think that the Leaving Cert is fair.

The report, titled 'Senior Cycle Reform - What do you want?', found that 76% of students want continuous assessment for the Leaving Certificate, while just 28% of principals, deputy principals and teachers, 4% of students and 15% of parents feel the Leaving Certificate is fair and accurately assesses students.

Labour councillor Anne Ferris recently called on the Minister for Education to completely reform the Leaving Cert exam and to stagger assessment over two years instead of having students sit so many exams in one go.

Cllr Ferris said "Every student, parent and teacher knows that

the Leaving Cert puts a huge amount of pressure on young students and the Labour Party believes it is time for the Government to take into account the views of students, the very ones who will sit the exams.

"Recent research by the ESRI shows that the all too familiar Leaving Cert puts an enormous focus on rote learning and is damaging the creativity of many students. I know from first-hand experience in UCD that the current system does not adequately prepare students for college or indeed the workplace. There are very few jobs that require a huge amount of rote learning and high-pressure exams every two years.

"Students who go on to college are required to carry out independent research but these skills are not necessarily learned by rote learning. A lot of students entering college after completing their Leaving Cert exams find it extremely difficult to change from the system of rote learning to independent thinking and research.

"We in the Labour Party believe it is now time for the Education Minister to listen to the Irish Second Level Students Union, the National Parents' Council and the Teachers' Unions to see how the Leaving Cert can be reformed to benefit all students in secondary schools."

Wicklow woman breaks down stigma associated with inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD)

It is estimated that at least 40,000 people across Ireland live with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, known collectively as inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD) and The Irish Society for Colitis and Crohn's Disease (ISCC) are working with IBD patients to help break down the stigma and embarrassment that a lot of people experience when discussing the condition, including Wicklow woman Aoife Mulhall.



Aoife Mulhall wants to help lift the stigma of IBD

Aoife has been living with IBD for nearly 10 years and is a passionate advocate for reducing the stigma associated with IBD and wants to help break down barriers and raise awareness.

Aoife was diagnosed in 2010 when she was just 24-years-old. Since then she has been living with the incurable condition which, at its worst, has left her bed-bound and balled up in pain. Aoife has found the condition very isolating and embarrassing to live with. She often has to cancel plans last minute and travelling has been very difficult as she constantly has to be aware of her condition. Aoife found it very difficult to find information on other people's experiences when she was first diagnosed, and wants to help raise awareness to reduce the stigma, isolation.

The Irish Society for Colitis and Crohn's Disease (ISCC) have conducted new research amongst its members in conjunction of its new mobile 'IBDWELL' app, revealing that: 88% of IBD patients feel anxious about the availability of toilets when they go somewhere new; Three quarters (75%) feel isolated when managing their IBD on a day-to-day basis; Over three quarters (78%) feel that their IBD has negatively impacted their mental health; the Majority (65%) feel there is stigma associated with IBD.



Barbara Ziflinska and Miecia Judziat are pictured at the Bray Vintage and Classic Car Show on Bray Seafont. Pic: Joe McQuillan



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BIFE DECLARES A CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY EMERGENCY



Bray Institute of Further Education (BIFE) declared a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency last Friday and they marked this with a staff dip in the sea on the morning of Friday 31st May.

BIFE wants to come forward and show leadership on this really important issue.

"We are in the process of signing up to the Green Campus Initiative for the new college year," declared Ellen Hegarty, teacher at BIFE. "A big effort

has been made with our waste management this year and we hope to work on this next year as part of our green campus initiative. Parts of the campus are being managed for biodiversity.

"We plan to promote the issues of climate

change and the biodiversity crisis where possible across all modules we teach in the new college year" she added.

We have already started with a 'Managed for Wildlife and Biodiversity' area on campus. We can only

improve from there. What we would really love is to create a biodiversity trail through the wooded area on our campus. This will not only be good for nature but we feel it will really enhance the wellbeing of staff and students alike. Time spent

Bray Institute of Further Education (BIFE) declared a climate and biodiversity emergency and marked this with a staff dip in the sea at Bray Seafront. Pic: Joe McQuillan

in nature has been shown to reduce levels of stress and anxiety. This declaration is something we can build

on in a really positive way.

"BIFE is not just an education facility but a community that can

work together to create a better future for us all through changes at the individual and group level. We hope that this

can show an example to our leaders of what can be achieved if we all work together. Ní neart go cur le chéile".



Gabriel Allen, Aoife McCann, Ellen Hegarty, AnneMarie Walsh, Michael Galligan, and Karen Ryan at the dip in the sea by BIFE staff members. Pic: Joe McQuillan



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As programme coordinators, REIL are responsible for the procurement and completion of all works. Paddy Sweeney, Managing Director of REIL said that this initiative we have taken all the 'leg-work' away from the homeowner. All they need to do is fill out an application form, after which REIL will conduct an assessment on their property and present them with a report. They can then decide whether or not they would like to proceed. Absolutely no money changes hands until all improvements have been made. From beginning to end, the input required by the home owner is minimal.

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Pictured is Temple Carrig Greystones 1st year soccer team who won the school's first ever Leinster Champions League title after a 5-3 win against a very strong St Ciaran's College, Kells.

Newly elected Wicklow councillors called on to make social and affordable housing a priority

The Housing Alliance, a collaboration of six of Ireland's largest Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) is calling on newly elected councillors in Wicklow to make the increased delivery of social and affordable housing a priority.

AHBs are not-for-profit organisations that have a social purpose to provide for people's housing needs by working in close co-operation with the Government, local authorities and relevant agencies. Rebuilding Ireland, the Government's plan to increase housing supply, recognises that AHBs will deliver one-third of the 50,000 additional social homes needed by 2021.

Declan Dunne, Chair of the Housing Alliance, said, "The social housing needs of many are currently being provided, with significant State support, by private landlords. This short-term solution does not represent long-term value and fails to guarantee housing stability and security for tenants beyond the discretion of

landlords.

"Local government plays a key role in housing delivery, and the members of the Housing Alliance collaborate and partner with local authorities throughout Ireland to help the State meet its social and affordable housing commitments. We want to continue and strengthen this partnership, working together with local authorities and their newly elected members to deliver more homes, at scale, for individuals and families who urgently need them."

The Housing Alliance launched its new campaign, 'More Social and Affordable Homes' last month to encourage a concerted effort from both national and local Government to address

the funding and regulatory obstacles that are frustrating the delivery of more social and affordable homes.

The Alliance is calling for action in three specific areas: 1) Development by Government of a time-lined action plan to explore all options to move AHBs 'off-balance-sheet' and provide practical support to do so; 2) Introduce new and sustainable affordable rental and cost rental schemes, beyond existing pilot models, to fully utilise the potential offered by AHBs; 3) Remove barriers to the speedy delivery of homes by AHBs, including cashflow, limited availability of skilled construction staff, and lack of availability of suitable sites.

Speaking about the campaign, John Hannigan, Vice-Chair of the Alliance, said, "To make progress, we need Government support to move Approved Housing Bodies 'off balance-sheet'. Failure to secure reclassification will restrict funding available and thus impact on the output of more social and affordable homes. We also want to see the roll-out of new and sustainable affordable rental schemes - beyond

existing pilot models. And barriers to the speedy delivery of new homes must be addressed.

"Concerted action is required working with local and national Government to overcome these obstacles, and the Housing Alliance is keen to work together to achieve this. We want to deliver homes and make a real difference to the lives of individuals and families all around the country."

NOMINATE THE TEACHER WHO HAS MOST INSPIRED YOU

Is Co. Wicklow home to some of the most inspiring teachers in Ireland? A new national initiative, Teachers Inspire, is aiming to find out.

Teachers Inspire Ireland is an initiative of Dublin City University, focused on highlighting the enormous contribution made by teachers in Irish society.

It is now open for people in Wicklow - and across the country - to share their personal stories of how a teacher transformed their lives and/or their community.

Stories can be submitted through the teachersinspire.ie website, and can be in either written or video format. The closing date for submissions is 30th June. After the closing date, a shortlist of the most compelling stories will be selected and profiled on the website. The initiative will then culminate in the inaugural

Teachers Inspire Ireland gala dinner on 27th September, at which teachers from across the country (one from each province) will be acknowledged and celebrated.

As he launched Teachers Inspire, Minister for Education and Skills, Joe McHugh TD, said: "I welcome the development of this initiative, which acknowledges the pivotal contribution of teachers to our society. Throughout Ireland, teachers go above and beyond to give their students the best possible learning experience. They not only teach, they motivate, encourage and inspire."

The President of DCU, Professor Brian MacCraith, said:

"Teachers Inspire wants to hear from Wicklow people about teachers who have inspired excellence, passion, imagination, creativity, compassion and courage. We hope to see a strong response from people across the county who, I'm sure, have excellent stories to tell about the teachers who inspired them."

"DCU is delighted to play a central role in the development of Teachers Inspire Ireland. This is a significant national initiative that recognises the incredible work of so many teachers in changing lives and advancing communities. It is important that exceptional teachers get the validation and recognition they deserve."

Delgany and District Horticultural Society Rose Show

The Delgany and District Horticultural Society Rose Show will take place on 29th June in St. Patrick's National School, Greystones, from 3-5pm.

It is a wonderful annual event with lots of roses and flowers. Teas are served during the show. Plants are also for sale. New members and exhibitors are very welcome. All exhibits must be staged before 11:30am on the day of the show. Entries must be advised to the Show Secretary in advance. Please email ddhs.showentries@gmail.com. Details at www.DelganyDHS.com and on Facebook.

North Wicklow drama group scoops top awards at international festival

Martello Productions, a local amateur drama group, which draws its cast from North Wicklow and South County Dublin, scooped the top awards at the Manx Amateur Drama Federation (MADF) festival of plays held recently in the Gaiety Theatre, Douglas, Isle of Man.

Martello Productions' presentation of the play "Portia Coughlan" by Irish playwright Marina Carr, won eight overall awards. Martello Productions, which was founded in 1974, conducts rehearsals at Rathmichael Parish National School, Shankill.

The group scooped awards for best play; best female performance (Orla Malone, Wicklow); best producer/director (Trevor Bailey, Bray); best female supporting role (Carolann Murphy, Wicklow) who also won best comedy performance. The play also won audience appreciation and drama awards and received 14 nominations in total.

In addition, it won the Tony McEvoy Backstage Award presented by the MADF theatre backstage crew.

Local Isle of Man newspaper "The Manx Independent" said that Martello had "wowed the adjudicator and audience" and had won praise and

awards for their "stunning stage sets and dramatic lighting".

"We were up against stiff competition from across the UK," comment-

ed Trevor Bailey, director/producer. "The awards are a tribute to the talent and hard work of all our group."

The Manx Amateur

Drama Federation was formed in the 1940s and its prestigious Easter festival of full length plays has been running since 1950.



Martello Productions team celebrate their success.

Older people in Wicklow to receive eircode fridge magnets

A joint initiative between Wicklow and Kildare County Councils and the HSE will see Eircode fridge magnets being provided to older people to be used in case of ambulance emergencies.

Welcoming the initiative, Minister Andrew Doyle said "In an emergency call, the responder asks for the eircode which is often not to hand or is still often unknown immediately. These fridge magnets will be easily read, will come with a semi-permanent marker but can be written on with an ordinary pen and will provide peace of mind to older people and their families.

"I am pleased to launch this initiative here today at the Older Persons Network AGM and I welcome the fact that Wicklow is at the forefront in terms of devising solutions and making life a little bit easier for our elderly population. Small devices such as personal alarms and having your eircode readily available can make all the difference.

The HSE will take part in this programme in that public health nurses will distribute the magnets to older people who are often hard to reach otherwise and the Gardai will also be involved as the community guards maintain a register of older persons.

"Information on this initiative and other aspects of the age friendly programme can be obtained through the Age Friendly Programme Coordinator in Wicklow Co Council," concluded Deputy Doyle.

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Isobel Carr, Lauryn Guilfoyle, and Caoimhe Breslin from St. Mary's College Arklow, which was one of the winners of the recent Ladies GAA post-primary schools Competition. They are pictured at the prize handover of a new set of jerseys and equipment.

An Post ask other Postmasters to operate Ballywaltrim Post Office

In an attempt to have the now closed Post Office in Ballywaltrim reopened An Post have written to other Postmasters asking them if they would be interested in submitting an interest in operating the post office.

Speaking on the matter, John Brady TD said "Recently An Post has advertised the position of postmaster for the now closed Ballywaltrim Post Office for the third time. This came about after discussions with two previous interested parties broke down. I have been constantly putting pressure on An Post to have the Post Office reopened as quickly as possible.

"I have now been informed that in an attempt to speed up the reopening of the Post Office that a number of other Postmasters who have contracts with An Post to operate post offices have been written to. They were asked if they would be interested in taking on the lease of the Ballywaltrim Post Office."

Deputy Brady continued "The closing date for expressing an interest in taking on the Post Office has now passed and it's my understanding that at least one serious expression of interest has been received. It's hoped that by giving the contract to someone that already operates a post office may result in the Ballywaltrim reopening quicker. An Post have now started discussions with the interested person with a view of awarding the lease."

Brady concluded "The closure of the Ballywaltrim Post Office has hit the community hard, many people have been negatively affected, particularly the elderly. Getting it reopened is a priority of mine and I will keep the pressure on An Post to bring this disgraceful and cumbersome process to an end and appoint a new Post Master, so the Ballywaltrim Post Office can reopen."



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Bray Ladybirds help create a BLOOMing successful 'Pledge Against Plastic' garden

A #PledgeAgainstPlastic garden designed and created by members of Irish Girl Guides (IGG) is proved to be a huge success at the Bloom festival in Phoenix Park.

Members of Bray Ladybirds (Ladybirds is the IGG branch for 5-7 year olds) helped create the garden by collecting plastic bottle tops and making eco-bricks - two-litre plastic bottles filled with soft plastic.

Approximately 1,500 plastic bottle tops were used to make the garden - hundreds of blue tops were used to represent the ocean on a giant globe while other coloured bottle tops were used to decorate planters.

The planters themselves were reused plastic tubs and bunting was made with crisp packets. A bug hotel was made by filling plastic containers with twigs and leaves and beautiful badges and crocheted ladybirds were made with leftover wool and scraps of material. Some of the badges were made by Bray Ladybird Leader Caitriona Kelly.

Dozens of eco-bricks were used to make a sofa, which many Bloom visitors tried out, including none other than An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, who showed great interest in the garden and how it was put together.

The garden was Highly Commended by the Bloom judges and attracted much attention and admiration from visitors, many of whom talked to IGG members about ways they would like to reduce waste.

Peter Donegan, a Royal Horticultural Society

Silver Medal awardee, said the girls' hard work and creativity had made him "smile very much" and climate campaigner and author, Lorna Gold, said it was her favourite garden because "It has the most heart in it".

The garden was the brainchild of Sarah Blake, who runs a sustainability consultancy Earthology and who is Leader of Rathgar Zion Brownies (Brownies is the branch of IGG for 7-10 year old girls). Once she came up with the idea, she spread the word through IGG's

12,000 members, asking them to help collect plastic bottle tops and make eco-bricks.

Sarah said the aim of the garden was to encourage people to focus on the ways in which they could reduce their use of plastic and focus on the 5 Rs - Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rot. "You can Refuse by growing your own vegetables and fruits, thereby avoiding the need for buying them in plastic," she said. "You can Reduce by using bees wrap instead of clingfilm to wrap your lunch (it can

be bought in health food shops), you can Reuse by using plastic containers as planters and Recycle by sending, for example, soft plastics, like crisp packets, to Terracycle. And you can Rot by using a compost bin or brown bin for your food waste."

The back of the garden features a wall that Brownies and Guides used to sign their pledges to reduce their use of plastic and visitors to the garden were encouraged to make their own #PledgeAgainstPlastic too.



Sophie Doyle (age 6) of Bray Ladybirds at Bloom 2019.

Anam Cara Wicklow parents' evening

Anam Cara Wicklow, the organisation that supports bereaved parents in your area, is holding its monthly parent evening on Monday 17th June at 7.20pm in the Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkenedy, kindly supported by Dublin Bus.

This free event is open to all bereaved parents providing a safe and comfortable space for them to access information and meet with other parents who have also experienced the death of their son or daughter. With Father's Day approaching at the end of the month it is often a particularly hard time, as is any milestone for bereaved parents. It is vital that the services and support of Anam Cara are available.

During the Anam Cara Parent evening mothers and fathers can avail of the support and comfort from other bereaved parents who understand the intense grief, pain and devastation after the death of a precious child.

Bereaved parents can also visit www.anamcara.ie, where in their own time they can watch short videos with testimonies from bereaved parents and couples who have attended Anam Cara events. The videos, which are just four minutes each, show par-

ents interviewed on topics like A Dad's Grief, Sudden and Traumatic Death, and The Grieving Family.

Anam Cara director Valerie O'Riordan stressed that this parent evening is open to all bereaved parents "regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death or whether the death was recent or not. Anam Cara gives bereaved mothers and fathers a chance to meet and connect with other bereaved parents in a safe and comfortable setting. Here we can find a level of support and understanding that - even with the best will in the world - it can be difficult for family and friends to offer."

A parent who attends the Wicklow group commented "The feeling of not being alone is so wonderful, even on a bad day I know I will at least leave the meeting feeling somewhat better." Please note Anam Cara will take a break in July and August. Events will resume in September.

Councillors are being urged to support the environment

Prior to the election on May 24th, BirdWatch Ireland asked all of the candidates if they would endorse a list of ten actions, if elected, that Birdwatch Ireland would like them to address at local level to tackle the biodiversity and climate change crises.

The ten actions consist of:

1) Protect our trees and hedgerows: Ensure no indiscriminate cutting of trees in urban centres. Support changing the law to ensure planning permission is required if it is proposed to remove a hedgerow of any size; carry out best practice management of hedgerows for nature on council land; ensure that the council only uses contractors who have achieved Teagasc hedge-cutting accreditation.

2) Align county development plans, policies and investments with radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and supporting restoration of biodiversity. Continue to support important sites for birds in the County.

3) Fully implement the actions set out in the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan on county owned and controlled grounds to help pollinators and encourage communities to do same.

4) Ensure continued protection for Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed NHAs in the County Development Plan and identify and protect other important areas for nature locally.

5) Implement training and awareness-raising for councillors on biodiversity and climate change.

6) Ensure that the County Development Plan and local area plans include measures to protect birds that nest in buildings (ie. Swifts, House Martins etc.)

7) Implement strong enforcement of environ-

mental laws including illegal dumping.

8) Tackle the problem of invasive species like Winter Heliotrope and Rhododendron Ponticum in the county.

9) Fund the Heritage Office and develop a county Biodiversity Action Plan that is resourced and implemented and includes actions on public awareness-raising activities about wildlife in Wicklow and active conservation of birds and other wildlife and the habitats that support them.

10) Hire an ecologist within the local authority to contribute to the ecological assessment of plans and projects that may affect areas important for nature conservation.



Greystones Cancer Support joined with 30,000 other women in Dublin last Bank Holiday Monday for the Women's Mini Marathon. GCS was very grateful for the support of the many participants who walked, ran or jogged. They did so in aid of a good local cause, now marking 25 Years of Community Cancer Care. Sonia Walsh, Chairperson of Greystones Cancer Support says GCS is very grateful for the enthusiasm of this year's Mini Marathon group.

"We especially welcomed Transition Year students from St. David's Secondary School. And we very much appreciate the continuing loyalty of the Delgany Guild ICA. We wish the ICA the very best with their spectacular Yarn Bombing project now ongoing in Greystones. Thank you to all in Greystones who helped our ladies have a successful day out." Pictured are Mini Marathon participants as they leave Tesco Greystones.

Music in Calary: June Concerts

There will be a number of concerts taking place in Calary Church during June:

On Friday 21 June, Musici Ireland with Lance Coburn (piano) Miriam Roycroft (cello) and Beth McNinch (viola) will perform Beethoven's Eyeglass Duo, Schumann's Marchenbilder, Da Falla's Suite Popular Española, Carl Vine's 5 Bagatelles and Brahms's Piano Trio in A minor Op. 114.

On Tuesday 25 June, Ellen Jansson (piano) will perform Beethoven's Sonata in A-flat Op. 26, Debussy's Feux d'artifice, Alexina Louie's 'Warrior' from Scenes from a Jade Terrace, Bach's Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue and Liszt's Ballade No 2. Local artist, Declan Cooke (piano) will perform Edvard Greig's 'Wedding Day at Troldhaugen'.

On Thursday 27 June, The Janet Ashe Memorial Concert: Adam Heron (piano) will perform Bach's French Suite No. 3 in B-minor BWV 814, Schubert's Piano Sonata No. 16 in A-minor D. 845, Albéniz's Iberia, Cuaderno 1 and Beethoven's Sonata No. 14 in C-sharp minor Op. 27 No. 2 "Moonlight".

Local artist, Jack Lawlor (piano), will play Chopin's Nocturne in Eb major, Debussy's Clair de Lune and Debussy's La Fille Aux Cheveux de Lin.

All concerts begin at 8 pm and tickets, which are 18 and 15 for concessions, are available from John (01) 2818146 or by emailing derekneilson@eircom.net.

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Members of Wicklow RNLI were thrilled to receive a cheque for 2,100 euros from Sean Olohan and Jimmy Balbontin the proceeds from a novel idea created by Sean to raise vital funds for the local Lifeboats. Wicklow Lions covered the total cost of manufacturing a replica of the local lifeboat Annie Blaker which has left Wicklow after 30 years of wonderful service. Sean has written a song called "Goodbye Annie Blaker" which is included on a USB stick in the shape of the lifeboat. The limited edition is completely sold out and Wicklow Lions are proud to part of this very worthy fundraiser. Due to demand the song is now available on CD in limited quantity from Track One Music Store in Wicklow.

Carysfort complete Blue Star project

Wicklow TD, Minister Simon Harris visited Carysfort National School in Arklow recently and met students from 5th and 6th class who had completed the Blue Schools project.

The Blue Star Programme is an education initiative for primary school pupils across Ireland. The idea of the Programme is simple: to foster better understanding and knowledge of the European Union and how it affects the lives of Irish citizens among primary pupils through classroom projects and activities.

Pupils of all ages, from primary schools all over Ireland, are challenged to get creative and think about Europe by carrying out projects in relation to four key elements: the history, geography, culture and creativity, and Institutions of the EU.

The Blue Star Programme aims to introduce participants (pupils, teachers, parents and the wider community) to the EU, what it means and how it works. The Programme also aims to foster a strong sense of awareness of the EU among its participants that reaches far beyond the school walls and out into the wider community.

Speaking about his visit to the Arklow school, Minister Harris said, "I was so impressed by the students in Carysfort

National School. They had clearly undertaken so much work on their projects and their knowledge of the EU and it's workings was impressive.

"It was great to get to

spend some time with them, hear their projects and take questions from them. Huge credit must go to their teachers for the work they have put into this also.

Now more than ever, it

is so important we teach the next generation about the importance of the EU, how it works and how citizens can interact with it," concluded Minister Harris.



Minister Simon Harris with pupils of Carysfort National School in Arklow.

Get ready for the Taste of Wicklow weekend

For the first time ever, the Taste of Wicklow this year will be a three-day event. The fun-filled weekend kicks off on Friday 28th June with the showing of the family outdoor movie 'The Greatest Showman'. Doors open at 9pm, with snacks, music and a full bar available with the movie starting at 10.20pm.

The fun-filled weekend continues on Saturday 29th June, with a star-studded music festival live at the Abbey from 5.30pm-10.30pm, with music by DJ and local bands, followed by the main attractions 'Jameire' (Bob Marley Tribute Band) and 'Promises & Lies' (UB40 Tribute Band).

On Sunday 30th June, the traditional, well-established Taste of Wicklow Food Festival takes place from 12 noon to 7pm with celebrity chefs Derry Clarke, Catherine Fulvio, Paul Kelly and a host of local chefs showcasing all the wonderful food that County Wicklow has to offer. The Taste of Wicklow has now become the biggest food festival outside of Dublin on the East Coast.

There will be over 40 food stalls with 30 craft stalls. Apart from the entry cost, all the entertainment is free of charge, with magicians, children's games, stilt walkers etc. It is truly a day for all the family.

Last year, almost 5000 people attended the event in wonderful weather in the beautiful, historic Abbey Grounds, which is the perfect setting for this fun-filled family day.

Chairman of the festival, John Sinnott advises patrons to book early for all events, as last year at the Taste of Wicklow on Sunday, only those with pre-bought tickets could be admitted in the afternoon as a result of the capacity attendance owing to health & safety guidelines.

Tickets are available now online at www.tasteofwicklow.ie with special early bird promotions available now! Fund-raising raffle tickets will also be on sale next week in retail shops throughout the town, with a great selection of cash & other prizes and tickets bought there will give the buyers free entry to the Taste of Wicklow on Sunday.

Register for CLIMB Programme

Registration is now open for the next CLIMB Programme which will start on Saturday 14th September from 11am-12.30pm for six weeks in Purple House Cancer Support Centre, Bray. CLIMB is a programme for children aged 5-12 who are experiencing the impact of a parents cancer diagnosis.

CLIMB stands for Children's Lives Include Moments of Bravery. CLIMB is run over six weeks. It's an enjoyable, sharing, interactive experience and a time for the children to come together to deal with their feelings. Throughout the programme the children will develop an understanding of cancer and from this understanding the myths and fears that children can hold about cancer will be dispelled. The programme is creative, using drama, arts and play. They are also based on having fun together and

meeting new friends.

CLIMB aims to help your child: To understand a cancer diagnosis by providing information on cancer; To learn how to express his or her feelings and emotions; To learn how to cope with these feelings; To feel part of a social group by making friendships with other children sharing a similar experience; To cope with the dramatic changes they are witnessing and experiencing in the home.

To book a place, please call 012866966 or email info@purplehouse.ie

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Nursing Homes Week 2019

10th - 16th JUNE

Nursing Home Residents across Ireland are taking part in a week of celebrations this week as part of Nursing Homes Week 2019, which takes place from Monday 10th to Sunday June 16th, with nursing home residents, as well as their families, friends, staff and many others, set to participate in a host of fun activities.

With art as a central theme of this year's celebrations, Irish artist Don Conroy was on hand at the Nursing Homes Week launch, which took place at Knockrobin Hill Nursing Home, Wicklow Town.

'In Residence' is an exhibition of artworks by nursing home residents that will be on display in over 130 nursing homes around Ireland throughout the week.

Tadhg Daly, Nursing Homes Ireland CEO said: "Nursing Homes Week 2019 will bring together an exceptional series of exhibitions across Ireland to mark Nursing Homes Week 2019. In Residence will see over one hun-

dred nursing homes displaying over 1,000 artworks created by nursing home residents. Art fulfils an essential role on a day-to-day basis in providing nursing home residents with therapeutic care and joyous activity. We expect visitors to nursing homes to take great joy in viewing these creations.

"Nursing Homes Week celebrates the remarkable people living in our nursing homes and the people who dedicate themselves to providing them with excellent care. Residents in our nursing homes continue to make a tremendous contribution to society. They bring to it tremendous knowledge and wisdom and wider

society can learn from values they hold. Tremendous happiness, inspiration and pride is brought to the lives of the people who engage with nursing home residents.

"During Nursing Homes Week we also celebrate the thousands of people in our nursing homes who are supporting residents on a round-the-clock basis. Staff in our nursing homes provide residents with fantastic care, support and assurance, enhancing the lives of these people entrusted in their care." Over 200 nursing homes are hosting celebrations during Nursing Homes Week. These vary from more 'traditional' celebrations

such as family days, live music and dance, garden parties, culture events and celebrations with local schools. More unique celebrations include cocktail and mad hatter parties, the visit of brass and army bands, a multi-home bocce tournament, 1930s tea dance, Hawaiian themed-party, vintage car displays and yoga.

Celebrations over the week will include family days, barbecues, parties, live music, dance, games, arts activities and a host of other events.

Tadhg Daly, NHI CEO states: "Our nursing homes are homes to extraordinary people in our communities. Nursing Homes Week



Lillian Timmons, Don Conroy & Patrick Byrne at the launch of Nursing Homes Week in Knockrobin Hill Nursing Home, Wicklow Town on Friday 31st May. Nursing Homes Week runs from the 10th - 16th June during which 1,000+ nursing home resident artworks set to go on display across the country. Pic: Harrison Photography



Emmanuel Burke, Don Conroy & Mary Shannon at the launch of Nursing Homes Week in Knockrobin Hill Nursing Home, Wicklow Town on Friday 31st May. Nursing Homes Week runs from the 10th - 16th June during which 1,000+ nursing home resident artworks set to go on display across the country. Pic: Harrison Photography

provides opportunity to celebrate the remarkable people who live within them and the people who dedicate themselves to providing them with excellent care.

"We should acclaim residents in our nursing homes who have and continue to make tremendous contributions to society. These

people have tremendous knowledge and wisdom for us to learn from.

"They inspire those around them and bring tremendous happiness and warmth to peoples' lives. Staff in our nursing homes provide these people with fantastic care, support and assurance, enhancing the lives of these people

entrusted in their care.

"This year we are delighted to celebrate the integral role that art fulfils within nursing homes in providing residents with therapeutic care and joyous activity. In Residence will see nursing homes across the country hosting art exhibitions of resident artworks during

the week. This will bring together truly remarkable and very special creations for visitors to the nursing homes in communities across Ireland to observe and admire." Nursing Homes Ireland represents over 300 private and voluntary nursing homes in communities across Ireland.



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Tourism Ireland has kicked off filming for phase two of its global advertising campaign. The footage will be used to create new TV, cinema and online ads and will reach millions of potential visitors around the world. It will be designed for the digital era and will also include lots of short 'snackable' content for use on social platforms.

Locations and attractions which will feature in this second phase of Tourism Ireland's campaign include Trim Castle, Slane Distillery, Powerscourt Estate and Waterford Crystal. Pictured are Fredrik (left) and Lisa Lexfors (right), the stars of the campaign; Brian Twomey, Tourism Ireland (centre); and the camera crew, during the shoot at Powerscourt Gardens.

ICT upgrades benefit 13 Wicklow libraries

Thirteen public libraries in Co. Wicklow have benefitted significantly from a technology investment to support local people to learn and develop digital skills.

Last July funding of over 8 million was approved by Minister for Community and Rural Development, Michael Ring, to invest in technology for libraries around the country.

Since then 190,682 was invested in state-of-the-art ICT upgrades for 13 public libraries in Wicklow, including: Bray, Greystones, Arklow, Blessington, Wicklow, Ballywaltrim, Baltinglass,

Dunlavin, Enniskerry, Rathdrum, Aughrim, Tinahely, and Carnew.

Some examples of the new equipment includes gaming laptops, HP ProOne All-in-one PCs, wall mounted LCD screens, Mobile projectors and screens, Android tablets, and a digital library assistant.

Minister Andrew Doyle said: "It's wonderful to see that the investment in our libraries that was

approved last summer is bearing fruit for local library users in Wicklow

"The new technology and facilities will enhance public libraries in Wickow and the new innovative services they provide. Our libraries are about much more than borrowing books. Increasingly, they serve as community hubs and as somewhere where people can learn and develop digital skills. We are trans-

forming our libraries through investments like this and it's great to see the impact it's having."

Minister Michael Ring said: "The transformation of the digital services in libraries is another step towards realising the aims of the public library strategy Our Public Libraries 2022 - Inspiring, Connecting and Empowering Communities which was launched in 2018. The strategy focuses on removing barriers to access and improving accessibility for all."

Grant aid for coastal community projects

The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael Creed, T.D., has announced details of EMFF grants of €4 million, awarded by Ireland's seven Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs) to 274 coastal based projects, supporting total investment of €6.4 million.

The grants are co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union under Ireland's European Maritime & Fisheries Fund Operational Programme for the seafood sector.

The seven FLAGs includes the South East Flag, which comprises Wicklow, Wexford and Waterford. The South East FLAG will receive an investment of

€1,178,540 for over 40 projects. Announcing the grant awards, Minister Creed said: "Ireland's 7 FLAGs are providing a wonderful source of investment for local seafood and marine projects in our coastal communities. Over 800 projects in seven coastal regions have benefitted from EMFF funding since the present FLAG scheme was launched in 2017.

The Scheme continues to positively impact on coastal communities in Ireland. The high number of successful projects funded this year reflects both the quality of the projects and the hard work of the local communities through the seven FLAG Boards."

Almost 400 applications were made to the seven FLAGs this year. All applications were reviewed by individual

FLAG Boards in each of the seven FLAG regions throughout Ireland. The FLAG Boards are comprised of volunteers from the local communities. Projects must be able to demonstrate a clear link to coastal community rejuvenation, enterprise, innovation, job creation and skills enhancement across the fishing, aquaculture and maritime industries.



Tellus Airborne Survey takes to Wicklow skies

The next phase of the Tellus Survey - a nationwide programme of the Geological Survey Ireland - will take off over the eastern and south eastern counties of Ireland in the coming days.

Tellus is a survey to collect geochemical and geophysical data on rocks, soil and water across Ireland. To gather this data, a low-flying aircraft equipped with state-of-the-art instruments will take to the skies over counties Wicklow, Kildare, Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford from June until autumn 2019, weather permitting.

The Tellus Survey programme has been surveying across Ireland over the last eight years and has recently finished flying over counties Limerick, Tipperary and west Cork. The programme aims to have 75% of Ireland mapped by 2020, with the resulting data having the potential to deliver positive economic, environmental and agricultural benefits by enhancing our understanding of the local environment, soil management, and the natural resource potential of the surveyed areas.

Data collected throughout the Tellus project is published and made freely available to all on the Tellus website (www.tellus.ie).

Dr James Hodgson, Senior Geologist and Project Manager for Tellus, says "The Tellus Survey is an important project which continues to provide us with significant data that will offer us valuable insights about the geophysical makeup of Ireland. As we start this new phase, I want to thank the local communities in counties Limerick, Tipperary and west Cork for their support while we surveyed these areas over the last few months. I am pleased to see the Tellus Survey programme launch into a new phase, gathering data across the east and south east of Ireland and we look forward to keeping the public informed as the survey progresses."

The survey aircraft is a white, twin propeller plane (as pictured), which is easily identified by its red tail and black stripe as well as the word 'SURVEY' and registration number C-GSGF written across both sides of the plane.

Based at Waterford airport, the survey plane will be flying at 60 metres over rural areas - about eight times the height of a two-storey house - and 240 metres over urban areas over the coming months, as approved by the Irish Aviation Authority.

Due to the low-flying altitude of the survey aircraft, anyone concerned about sensitive livestock is encouraged to contact the Tellus Freephone Information Line on 1800 45 55 65. The Tellus team will be happy to provide information on upcoming flight plans.

An 'old friend' visits Arklow Lifeboat station

Arklow RNLI was proud to host the courtesy visit of the RNLI's newest Shannon Class Lifeboat recently.

Family, friends, former colleagues and members of the public turned up on June 1st at Arklow Lifeboat Station to welcome home an 'old friend'.

The old friend is RNLI's newest addition to the Lifeboat Fleet in Ireland, the RNLB Michael O'Brien.

The new lifeboat was on delivery passage to Clogherhead where the boat will be stationed. The courtesy call to Arklow was the first Irish landfall of the new Shannon Class Lifeboat.

The lifeboat was named after Arklow RNLI's Former Lifeboat Coxswain Michael O'Brien, following a bequest in his will from Gorey Farmer and long-time friend of Michael and Arklow RNLI, Henry Tomkins.



Rosemary Keegan and Julie Byrne, Tony Doyle, John Doyle, Charlie Doyle, and Lenisa Myler Doyle are pictured with Clogherhead Lifeboat crew members Sean Flanagan and Sean Reilly during the Michael O'Brien lifeboat's visit to Arklow

Following the emotional visit, a very proud Jimmy Tyrrell, former Arklow RNLI Life Boat Operations Manager said, "I campaigned for years to have a Lifeboat Class named after an Irish river, to see one of this class named after a colleague and friend is truly a great honour and fills us all with great happiness and pride. All of us at Arklow RNLI wish our colleagues at Clogherhead every good wish for the future, we know Michael will look after them."

Wicklow Glamour Guide



We all know that feeling good about ourselves should be an inside job however that doesn't mean we can't also take pride in our appearances. In the run up to summer holidays thoughts turn to perfecting a summer look.

County Wicklow has an embarrassment of riches in the hair and beauty industry to help you achieve the best version of yourself. From hair and beauty salons, to tanning and nail specialists, or injectable clinics, almost every town and village across the county has numerous places to address your needs.

Here are some of **Wicklow Times** top Glamour Guide tips for summer.

Skin

Fake it! A real tan is just a sign of skin damage and there's no excuse for it these days with the huge range of fake tans available at all price points in salons and also to apply at home. Preparation is the key - remember to exfoliate beforehand and moisturise dry patches such as elbows and hands.

Even though we give out about the weather here in Ireland, UV rays are still very much present. Invest in a good SPF that covers both UVA and UVB and apply liberally and regularly. Seek shade dur-



ing the hottest hours of the day.

Take care of your skin by investing in good quality products and topping up your home care regimen with occasional treatments at a salon or clinic. Everything from aromatic facials to botox and fillers is available around the county. Do ensure that if you are receiving injectables they come from the appropriately qualified person.

Hair

Your crowning glory, hair actually needs a little extra care during the summer. There are sprays available with an SPF included. Remember to get regular trims and conditioning treatments as the sun and air conditioning can dry it out. The sun can also have a lightening effect and those with lighter hair may find they don't need to get their hair coloured as



often as usual. Some people choose to use a different shade during the summer months or go for the chop. Your stylist and colourist will be able to advise on how to proceed if you choose to change your colour or style.



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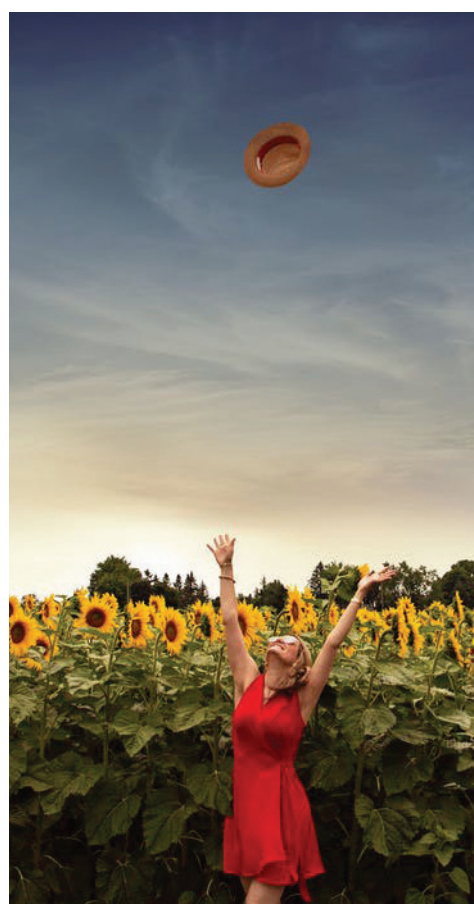
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Teresa Kelly at the Salvador Dali melting clock sculpture which was on display at Russborough House in Blessington.

Ireland's Tree Volume Calculator launched

Minister of State for Agriculture Food and the Marine, Andrew Doyle T.D., with responsibility for forestry, last week launched Ireland's Tree Volume Calculator. This calculator has been developed to allow forest owners and managers to estimate tree volume online, using basic tree information for the main conifer and broadleaf tree species.

Tree volume is an important unit of measurement as it details the size of a tree, which can be used to inform forest management decisions. It will also assist in determining the value of a tree or forest.

Commenting on the launch, the Minister said "The availability of this

online calculator gives everyone access to a facility that allows the calculation of tree volume using the basic information of tree diameter and height. Availability online will allow people to access the facility at any time."

The conifer tree information used to create the calculator was obtained from over 38,000 felled trees in experimental plots from 1971 to 2006, while the broadleaf tree information was collected non-destructively using a remote diameter scope from over 4,000 broadleaf trees across Ireland in 2013.

For practical purposes, the calculator provides an opportunity not only for stem volume but also the volume of any segment of a tree stem to be calculated. Another very important feature of the new calculator is the very high

accuracy which can be reached for small groups of trees or even for individual trees, where upper stem diameter and stump diameter measurements are incorporated.

The Minister also advised that "By launching this calculator today, we are endeavouring to provide the best available information to all those involved in managing forests and in providing advice to owners. This information on tree size will aid in making an informed decision on whether to fell a forest or retain for a further number of years. At a national level, from a roundwood supply and wood quality perspective, the timing of felling is important to allow the production of sufficient quantities of valuable sawlog-sized material to support an expanding sawmill sector.



Arklow & Courtown RNLI assist two stricken vessels

Arklow RNLI launched on 1st June at approximately 9.40pm to a request to assist two vessels in need of assistance following a launch request from the Irish Coast Guard.

In good conditions, the Allweather Trent Class lifeboat Ger Tigchlearr made its way to the reported position just north of Cahore point.

Once on scene the casualty vessels were located and it was confirmed that there were two vessels, one yacht which was being towed north by a powerboat which had suffered engine trouble, when this occurred the yacht had taken over the tow.

Arklow lifeboat put a crewmember aboard the

yacht to assist during the tow and once the towline was established both vessels were then taken on tow north by Arklow Lifeboat. During the tow the towline parted.

In the meantime Courtown RNLI had also been tasked and arrived on scene a short time later, given that night had fallen in around the rescue and for the immediate safety of both casualty vessels and their combined crew of two, a decision was made to take both casualty vessels into

Courtown Harbour.

Both boats were towed safely into Courtown by Courtown Lifeboat while Arklow Lifeboat stood by where all hands came ashore safely. Arklow Lifeboat then returned to base.

Arklow RNLI's Volunteer crew on this shout were Coxswain Ned Dillon, Brendan Dillon Aiden Downey, Geoff Kearnes, Craig O Reilly, John Tyrell & David Molloy.

Following the incident, Declan Smullen- Deputy

Launch Authority at Arklow RNLI said "Thankfully tonight was a mild relatively calm evening, had conditions been worse the situation might not have ended so well, I'd like to say thanks to our volunteers from both Arklow and Courtown who through teamwork got this positive result. We would like to once again remind people to respect the water and always wear a life-jacket and carry a means of calling for help like a marine radio."

Wicklow working lives

A Wicklow nun and a postman both feature in a new book by Marie Louise O'Donnell entitled 'Irish Working Lives' which was launched recently.

Monica Lawless is a Carmelite nun at the Monastery in Delgany, Greystones and postman Brendan Hughes hails from Ashford.

Work accounts for so much of our waking lives, yet we rarely reflect upon or celebrate the contribution of those whose vocations and careers are the bedrock of a thriving society. As a broadcaster, Marie Louise O'Donnell has had the privilege of spending 'work time' and 'thought time' with a broad array of individuals across Ireland, gaining a unique insight into their particular occupation and learning about what inspires or motivates them in their chosen field.

Irish Working Lives is the story of the encounters - by turns candid and lyrical - and illuminate the ways

in which these individuals perceive their occupation, its day-to-day demands and the inextricable relationship between work life and spiritual life.

Whether spending a day on the road with a postman in Co. Wicklow or meeting the Galway gardener who has used her own experience of personal tragedy to help others heal, Marie Louise's assiduity and innate curiosity enlivens each and every encounter.

Alongside each testimony, award-winning photographer Eric Luke's stunning images explore each contributor's relationship with their trade or calling and are a wonderful complement to Marie Louise's evocative prose.

Coolakay Agricultural Heritage Centre opens extended premises

Anna May McHugh, Managing Director National Ploughing Association, was the special guest last week at the opening of extended Coolakay Agricultural Heritage Centre in Enniskerry.

Coolakay Agricultural Heritage Centre was started in the late 80s by sheep farmer, and collector/local historian Robert Roe on his working farm and award-winning Guesthouse located in Enniskerry, in the Wicklow Mountains, just beside the picturesque Powerscourt Waterfall and within 1km access to the world-famous Irish walking route The Wicklow Way.

This Agricultural Heritage Centre is a true collection of Ireland's farming heritage, both from a farm machinery perspective and a farming life perspective from the 1700's right up to the present day.

Robert has continued to invest in and restore farm machinery and equipment since the Heritage Centre's inception in 1989. Now 30 years in existence this year, Robert has rehoused his collection in extended premises which re-opened in May of this year, to coincide with the peak Irish visitor season.



Robert Roe has rehoused his collection in extended premises at Coolakay Agricultural Heritage Centre.

The Epiphany of Eileen O'Keefe

An absurdist clowning piece that focuses on the joys of everyday life, comes to the Whale Theatre in Greystones on Friday 12th and Saturday 13th July.

Through the use of movement and dance the characters find a sense of fun in their previously monotonous lives. The Epiphany of Eileen O'Keefe is an exhilarating show that aims to delight and inspire audiences. It is a brand new energetic and experimental piece filled with raw energy, fresh innovation and a lot of laughs!

The Epiphany of Eileen O'Keefe is directed by Emma Finegan, designed by Annachiara Vispi, with lighting by Ferdy Emmet, and is Stage Managed by Sophie Coote, devised by Jack Delaney, Ellen Finnerty, Martha Knight, Simon Geaney, and Cian Malin.

Duration of the show is 50 minutes and it starts at 8pm (Doors 7pm). Tickets 10/ 7
See www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550 for more information.

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650 INDIANS VISIT WICKLOW

A major travel company which is headquartered in Mumbai will bring some 650 Indian visitors to Wicklow and Ireland over the coming weeks.

Four separate groups, totalling 650, will travel here between now and early July. The visiting groups represent the important MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences and events) travel segment and are made up of senior business executives, who travel to a different overseas destination each year, as a reward for their performance over the previous year. Tourism Ireland in India worked

closely with Thomas Cook India in advance of the visit - making several presentations to convince them to choose Ireland over other competing destinations and suggesting various locations for their final programme.

One of the highlights of the group's action-packed four-day visit was a morning of fun team-building activities at The Orchard Centre in Tinahely.

In 2018, we welcomed an estimated 45,000 visitors from India to the island of Ireland, according to Tourism Ireland. Tourism Ireland undertakes a busy programme of promotional activity.

"Business tourism is one of the most lucrative forms of tourism, with visitors travelling here for business purposes spending almost three times more than a leisure visitor - so we

are delighted that Thomas Cook India has chosen Ireland for the 2019 reward trip for these business executives," said Huzan Fraser, Tourism Ireland India. "We know that companies like Thomas Cook India are looking for truly unique experiences for their reward programmes, so this visit is good news indeed and presents us with an excellent opportunity to showcase Ireland as a premier destination."

Rajeev Kale, President & Country Head - Holidays, MICE

& Visa Services, Thomas Cook India said: "I am delighted with the amazing support from Huzan and Team Tourism Ireland, that has been invaluable in our successful pitch and confirmation of four prestigious corporate MICE groups to Ireland. We've hand-picked unique inclusions and engaging experiences that showcase Ireland to this critical segment of decision-makers and travel influencers and we look forward to sending many more such groups in future."

Travelling with your dog

Good weather, an attractive holiday destination and enough time to spend with your four-legged friend - these are the perfect circumstances for dog-owners who love to travel. Don't forget your pets travel essentials, here's a list of your must have items to pack:

- EU-vet ID with vaccination records and other certifications
- Collar and lead
- Contact detail tag with home address and holiday address
- Water and food bowls
- Enough food for all days (it can be very expensive abroad)
- Treats and chewy bones
- Toothbrush and toothpaste if required
- Brush, comb
- Tin opener, food fork or spoon (for wet food)
- A favourite toy
- A dog bed or blanket
- Poop bags, shovel or paper
- Diahorrea tablets
- Disinfectant for wounds
- Eye and ear drops
- Tick forceps
- Tablets for travel sickness if required

Call in to your local Maxi Zoo and speak with a Pet Expert about how to have a stress free holiday with your pet.



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WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, Boyle Sports, intend to apply for full permission for Change of use of an existing property (take-away & residential uses) to bookmakers office on the ground floor with a single storey extension (bookmakers office) to the rear of the main existing building, alterations to the existing shopfront and all associated site development works at Main Street, Blessington, 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 the planning authority during its public opening hours. The planning application may be viewed online at www.wicklow.ie, under planning online enquiries.

A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20, within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the planning authority in making a decision on the application. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.

C/o Bernard Dowdall - MR/Al - Architect - Carrickedmond, Kilcurry, Dundalk, Co. Louth. Tel. (042) 9429558; (087) 6657148; E-mail - bernard@dowdallarchitects.ie

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

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

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplandesign.com) Seeks planning permission for conversion of previously granted storage space to bedroom and proposed upper gable window to front of dwelling and associated works at 8A Carrig Villas, Delgany, Co. Wicklow for T. Gorman. 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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2. Extension of Existing First Floor Bay Window into New Attic Extension.

3. All ancillary site works at 32, Wheatfield, Bray, Co. Wicklow. A98 P303.

Signed: Robin & Gillian Kelly.

The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Board of Management seeks permission for erection of exterior 2.5m high platform lift and a series of ramps to connect Building D and the upper levels of Building C and to the platform lift. The platform lift is in a metal rail enclosure. Works are to provide wheelchair access for disabled child and improve universal access at Scoil na Coroine Mhuire, Ashford, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I Yellow Lane Business Park Ltd. seeks Permission for Demolition of existing 498m2 commercial unit and removal of existing temporary car wash shed, Construction of 41 housing units to be constructed in two phases; Phase 1 to include construction of 33 housing units that shall consist of 12 one bed duplex apartments and 12 two bed duplex apartments identified as Blocks 1, 2 and 5 and construction of 9 three bedroom two story houses identified as Blocks 3, 4 and 6 and installation of a temporary waste water treatment plant with connection to existing services, erection of retaining wall and back land filling same wall along existing railway line, Phase 2 will include the removal of temporary on site waste water treatment plant on completion of Arklow's Waste Water Treatment Plant and construct 4 one bed and 4 two bed duplex apartments identified as block 7, connection to existing services at Yellow Lane, Knockanrahan Lower, Arklow Co Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

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