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DUMPING FINES page 8

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NO HOPE FOR FIRST-TIME BUYERS

YOUNG COUPLES CAN'T AFFORD TO BUY OR RENT IN COUNTY WICKLOW

It would take the average first-time buyer in County Wicklow a whopping fifteen years to save for a 10% house deposit, according to a report by EY (Ernst & Young). Overall, the report ranked Wicklow as the least affordable county in the entire country for first time buyers.

For comparison, buyers in Leitrim would have to save for just 1.2 years to gather their deposit, while our neighbours in Carlow would take 2.6 years.

The report also found that the average home in Wicklow would cost a buyer 4.9 times their salary - again, the highest in the country. Commuter counties Meath and Kildare come in at 4.5 and 4.7 respectively. The most affordable homes are in Leitrim and Longford at 2.1 times a first-time buyer's average salary.

The report also shows that while house prices in Wicklow increased by 8% between 2015 and 2018, the volume of growth in this period was recorded as minus 4.8%.

The figures were calculated using publicly available data to calculate an average household income before subtracting living and rent costs. A deposit is taken to be 10% of the median house price.

In more worrying news for first time buyers, Daft.ie released their second quarter house price

report last week showing that in Wicklow, prices between April and June of 2019 were 3% higher than a year previously, compared to a rise of 6% seen a year ago. The average house price is now €344,000, 69% above its lowest point.

So, what is the government doing to assist first time buyers? The Help to Buy scheme allows people to claim back income tax aid over the previous five years up to a maximum of €20,000 or 5% of the price of the proper-



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ty. There was a significant take up of this scheme in Wicklow and other commuter counties.

However, the scheme is due to expire at the end of the year and it is unclear if the Finance Minister Paschal Donohoe intends to extend it. It has also received criticism after figures showed the scheme disproportionately helps those who are at the upper end of the first-time buyer budget and have a higher income; in other words, buyers who would have bought anyway.

Fianna Fail's Stephen Donnelly said it was 'particularly bitter' to see Wicklow coming in as the least affordable county for first-time buyers. He said the report highlighted the real human cost of the growing wealth inequality in Ireland.

Deputy Donnelly added, "The pursuit of a 1980's style capitalism

over the past decade in Ireland has resulted in thousands of new millionaires per year, while more and more people are at the same time being locked out of home ownership. It has happened in the US, the UK and now here in Ireland. Fianna Fáil believes strongly in home ownership, and has tabled lots of policies that would turn the tide away from largely tax-exempt profits for foreign developers, and back in the favour of Irish citizens."

Meanwhile Donnelly's party colleague Deputy Pat Casey highlighted a number of immediate concerns related to affordable housing during last week's meeting of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Housing.

He said, "It's almost five months since this committee were assured

Continued on page 3

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James Bayle and Ciara Bayle at St. Catherine's School last week for the annual presentation of certificates. The students have been working through various stages of the ASDAN programme, which is specially designed for students with special needs Pic: Joe McQuillan

Active Flag for Holy Rosary school

Holy Rosary School in Wicklow Town was recently awarded their Active School Flag. And on June 19th local athlete Aisling Beacom was invited along to officially raise the flag in her former school. As an Active School all the pupils in Holy Rosary are committed to including activity in their school day.

This year they have done lots of activities including active lines, dance in the yard, rainy day exercises, Run a Marathon in a Month and Active Schools Week.

The Active School Committee is made up of pupils from 3rd to 6th class and they have had a very important role in the Active School Flag process. The Committee met regularly and helped plan activities in the school. They also spoke to their classes and younger classes in Bethlehem about the Active School Flag process and ran events like

the Easter Eggercise Orienteering and Santa Dash in the school.

The Active School Committee were awarded medals for all their hard work in achieving the flag. The Active School Flag is a great achievement for the whole school and can be seen proudly flying on the flag pole outside the school.

In Addition to raising its Active Schools Flag, Holy Rosary became the first school in the country to raise the Dare to Believe Flag.

Dare to Believe is the Irish Olympic school pro-

gramme based on the Olympic and Paralympic values with the mission of bringing the Olympics to the classroom and inspiring the next generation.

The programme is funded by The Olympic Federation of Ireland and was developed by former Holy Rosary pupil and local Olympic Athlete Roisin McGettigan.

Catherine O'Hara, 6th class teacher at Holy Rosary, and her students were instrumental in the Olympic values programme's development. The class tested the programme materials and

gave feedback throughout the programme's first year. The class was also visited by Olympian Shane O'Donoghue, Irish Hockey Team Captain who gave an inspiring talk as part of the programme.

Roisin Jones, Dare to Believe programme manager, was present to award the first Irish Olympic school flag to the school and small prizes to the students for taking part and completing their challenges that included Olympic designs, song writing, physical activities and much more.



Aisling Beacom helps to raise the Active Flag and Dare to Believe Flag at Holy Rosary School in Wicklow Town

What's Happening...

Bringing Broadway home

Boulevard Productions presents Bringing Broadway Home at the Whale Theatre in Greystones on 6th July. This evening of musical theatre will feature songs from your favourite musicals - My Fair Lady, Oklahoma and Carousel, with a touch of modern Broadway. Starring Roisin Sullivan, Mark O'Looney, Naoise Stuart-Kelly, and star of Angela's Ashes, The Musical, Eoin Cannon. Details of all future Whale Theatre events from: www.WhaleTheatre.ie.

Aughrim Active Retirement

Aughrim Active Retirement are going to Shelbourne Park Greyhound Races on Tuesday night, 16th July. The cost is €25 which includes entry and dinner. The group will continue to meet at Phelans at 10.30am for a short walk and coffee afterwards.

St. David's car boot sale

The next car boot sale at St. David's secondary school in Greystones will be on Sunday 7th July, 9am to 3pm. Gate opens at 7.30am for sellers. Gates will be locked at 3.30 pm. Cars, €15; Vans/Cars with trailers, €25. Payable on entry. Details and sellers rules from info@stdavids.ie.

Kilcoole community policing clinic

Kilcoole Policing Clinic takes place each Wednesday evening in Kilcoole Community Centre, 6pm to 8pm. Garda Corbett and/or Garda Thompson will be in attendance. Drop in for crime prevention advice, get a form stamped, and most other Garda station services. Details from: Garda Molly Corbett; molly.a.corbett@garda.ie, or Garda Alan Thompson; alan.m.thompson@garda.ie.

Burnaby Lawns Family Fun Day & Football Match

The Burnaby Lawns Family Fun Day and Football Match 10 year anniversary will take place on Saturday 6th July, 2-5pm.

This event started when the estate was experiencing growing anti-social behaviour among its young people. One of the youths involved suggested a football match with the Gardai might be a way to help improve the situation.

So the Greystones Family Resource Centre in Burnaby Court, the Community Gardai and the young people of the estate came together. And the community football match was born. From lining out on opposite sides, the Gardai and the younger residents got to know each other and with time, began to develop an understanding that grew to an appreciation and respect for each other.

Gradually, this has grown into a family fun day for the whole community and ten years on, is still going strong. Every year, the Greystones Family Resource Centre, the Residents Association, the Community Gardai and sponsors Derek Doyle Butchers and Ciaran Hayden Bouncy Castles come together to plan a day of fun, football and a residents' barbeque for all to enjoy.

Come along and see if the Garda team can hold on to their 10-year winning streak!

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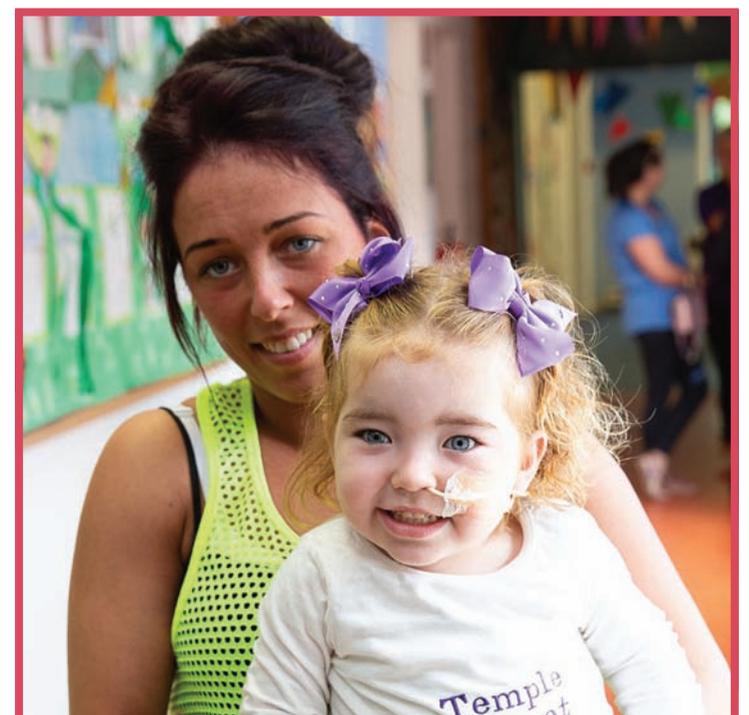
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First Saturday Book Sale

The July First Saturday Book Sale, which supports the Shankill Old Folks Association, takes place on Saturday July 6th between 10am and 1pm in the Shankill Old Folks Association Centre.

So make a point of calling into it during that Saturday morning and avail of the opportunity to pick up great summer reading material from the wide selection of books to choose from - DVDs and CDs also available. 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.



An event was held in St Kieran's school in Bray to launch their 'Easy Cookbook by the Community Kitchen'. The Community Kitchen is a group of parents from St Kieran's school who came together every week in the school to learn new ideas for healthy meals for their families with the support of SPECS, Bray Area Partnership, Healthy Ireland, St Kieran's School and CYPSC (Children and Young People's Services Committees). All monies raised from the event and the sale of the cookbook went to Temple Street Hospital. Pictured at the event are Bridie and Maddie Moorehouse

Wicklow house prices on the rise

The price of the average three-bed semi in County Wicklow rose by 0.3% over the past three months, according to a national survey carried out by Real Estate Alliance.

Wicklow prices remained static overall at €290,000 over the past year, the Q2 REA Average House Price Survey found.

The survey concentrates on the actual sale price of Ireland's typical stock home, the three-bed semi, giving an up-to-date picture of the second-hand property market in towns and cities countrywide to the close of last week.

"The sale of second-hand family homes and three-bed semis in North Wicklow has slowed, and prices have eased off due to construction of new homes," said Matt Forkin of REA Forkin, North Wicklow.

"New home build is having an impact on the price of second-hand homes as buyers opt for new houses."

The price of the average three-bed semi in North Wicklow was static this quarter at €315,000, and average time to reach sale agreed rose from eight weeks to 10.

According to Simon Murphy of REA Murphy in Baltinglass and Blessington, proximity to Dublin still generates strong appeal.

"Shortage of supply is leading to a slight rise in individual sales, with one-off properties in demand."

Average three-bed semis in Baltinglass were static in price this quarter and are currently on the market at 170,000, with the time taken to sell remaining at 12 weeks.

The price of the average three-bed semi in Blessington rose by 1.72% to €295,000 this quarter, and the average time to sale fell from eight weeks to six.

Wicklow Town three-bed semis saw no change in price at €320,000 and remained on the market for 10 weeks, with prices in Bray also static at €350,000

with a 10 week sale time.

The average semi-detached house nationally now costs €236,028, the Q2 REA Average House Price Survey has found - a rise of 0.05% on the Q1 2019 figure of €235,898.

Overall, the average house price across the country rose by 1.54% over the past year - a decrease on the 2.96% recorded to March and an indication that the market is continuing to steady after an 8% overall annual rise to June 2018.

Dublin City second hand property prices decreased by an average of €4,500 in the past three months, registering a second consecutive quarter fall (-1%) since the end of March, and -2.2% compared to June 2018.

The price of the average three-bed semi-detached house in the capital's postcode districts now stands at €433,000.

"Wherever we have new homes on the market, they are definitely having an effect on prices in the existing market as they operate in their own price structure, with buyers prepared to pay a premium for A-rated properties," said REA spokesperson Barry McDonald.

Prices rallied slightly by 0.1% in the commuter counties in the last three months, with the average house now selling for €249,167 - an annual rise of 1.17%.

The increased availability of new homes has had a suppressing effect on prices in some commuter areas such as Kildare, North Wicklow and Meath.

Prices in the country's major cities outside Dublin were relatively static with agents in Galway and Limerick reporting no change due to an increase in supply and new homes developments. The highest annual increases (5.3%) were once again seen in the rest of the country's towns which rose in selling price by an average of €8,000 in the past year and 1.08% in the past three months to €161,138.



An event was held in St Kieran's school in Bray to launch their 'Easy Cookbook by the Community Kitchen'. The Community Kitchen is a group of parents from St Kieran's school who came together every week in the school to learn new ideas for healthy meals for their families with the support of SPECS, Bray Area Partnership, Healthy Ireland, St Kieran's School and CYPSC (Children and Young People's Services Committees). All monies raised from the event and the sale of the cookbook went to Temple Street Hospital. Pictured at the event are Maraline McCarthy and her baby sister Kathleen McCarthy

Housing First service to be rolled out in Bray

Kildare County Council has put a contract out to tender for Housing First services in the towns of Bray, Newbridge, and Navan.

The services will be rolled out over a three-year period, with Bray to get 11 tenancies over that time. According to the Housing Department's targets, Wicklow is to get five tenancies this year, three in 2020, and another three in 2021.

Kildare and Meath county councils, meanwhile will get 31 and 22 tenancies respectively.

The programme is being rolled out in conjunction with the HSE and the Department of Housing. The tender issued last week is worth approxi-

mately €702,000.

The Government's Housing First National Implementation Plan 2018-2021 states that "Housing First is a proven solution to homelessness for people who have been rough sleeping, and long-term users of emergency hostels and shelters, with high needs around mental health and addiction. It provides homeless individuals with a stable, secure home of their own as quickly as possible in order to effectively target them with personalised housing and health supports. These wrap-around services, which are provided for as long as needed, help people stay housed and support them in their recovery."



The price of the average three-bed semi in County Wicklow rose by 0.3% over the past three months, according to a national survey carried out by Real Estate Alliance.

NO HOPE FOR FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Continued from page 1

by the Housing Agency that a much-needed Affordable Purchase Scheme would be in place in a matter of weeks.

"The scheme, to provide homes for low or middle-income buyers in Wicklow was signed into law a year ago but there are thousands waiting in frustration for an update on the long-promised solution.

"The negotiations around an increase to the service site fund took three years, a lot of time and with the aim of reducing costs but also to get the scheme up and running in the first instance. Wicklow County Council have drawn up and accepted criteria for the scheme but there is still absolutely no indication of

when the first affordable home will be delivered.

"According to Daft.ie, a single person in Wicklow is paying 58.8% of their net take home pay on rent. It is crucial that we give people more options for affordable rental and affordable purchase.

"The income threshold, and particularly the threshold for couples with decent employment on average salaries, is too low. This must be reviewed to allow more perspective homeowners to be eligible for the scheme. Wicklow is now one of the most expensive places in Ireland to buy a family home and thousands of hard working Wicklow people are simply being forced out of their home county and may never be able to build a life for themselves in the community they come from. That is scandalous."

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Killian Doyle receiving his ASDAN certificate at the annual St. Catherine's school presentation of certificates last week, with Connor and Eoghan Doyle, Fergus Doyle and Mary Roche. Students have been working through various stages of the ASDAN programme, which is specially designed for students with special needs. Pic: Joe McQuillan

NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY ON NEW SITE FOR ST. CATHERINES

Wicklow TD Minister Simon Harris met with Minister for Education Joe McHugh last week to seek an update on the delivery of a new school for St Catherines Special School. Following a protracted process with one location, Minister Harris had previously asked the Department to consider other site options in order to ensure building works began soon.

Speaking after the meeting, Minister Harris said: "Having met with parents in May, I felt it was crucial the Dept start looking at alternative sites for St Catherines. Progress on securing the original site seemed to have stalled and we can no longer wait for the outstanding issues to be resolved. I am really pleased the Dept of Education listened when we asked them to take action on this and today I have received confirmation that they have now completed both the site suitability appraisal report and the independent valuation stage of another site which the board and parents feel will work well for the school."

The Department are now embarking on the next phase which is negotiations with the vendors.

Minister Harris continued: "We now have two sites that have both come through the suitability appraisal and valuation report stage for St Catherines - it's now time

to be able to say with certainty where the schools new home will be. I will continue to put pressure on the Department of Education to ensure we can get building started as soon as possible.

"We have secured Government funding to build a new state of the art school for the St Catherine's. Once a site is secured, which I expect to happen in the coming weeks, it will be full steam ahead to get this building underway.."



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Fianna Fáil's 'callous U-turn' on motion to improve the Carers Allowance

Bray Labour Councillor Anne Ferris has expressed her shock and disgust at the U-Turn carried out in the Dáil by Fianna Fáil TDs on the Labour Party's motion to increase supports for carers in next year's Budget.

"As everyone living in Bray - and indeed the entire county of Wicklow - knows there are thousands of people caring for loved ones in their own homes. We all know of a neighbour or friend caring for a child with disabilities or an elderly relative. We also know the work carried out by the carers in our communities who visit and care for elderly people thus ensuring they can continue to live in their own homes. These carers are saving the State millions of Euros each year and are not being

adequately rewarded for the job they carry out. "The measures being called for in the motion were by no means over the top or unachievable - they included: A New National Carers Strategy; Major reforms to the means test for Carers Allowance with increases to the income disregard and other changes; Carers Allowance to be made tax exempt like other social welfare means tested allowances; Adequate funding for home care and home supports; A replacement mobility allowance

and motorised transport grant; Increased funding for home adaptation grants; Extended GP visit cards and an increase in the hours that Carers can work per week from 15 to 18.5 hours "When the Labour Party motion was being debated in the Dáil, each and every Fianna Fáil TD who spoke said they would support Labour's motion and indeed they also called on the Government to accept the proposed improvements to the Carers Allowance. However, when it came to

voting on the motion, these same Fianna Fáil TDs did a complete U-Turn and aligned themselves with Fine Gael to vote against the motion. I am absolutely shocked and disgusted at the disregard and callousness that both Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael are showing to the thousands of carers in County Wicklow and right across the country. In my view, they have betrayed those who are selflessly caring for the most vulnerable people in our community", concluded Cllr. Ferris.

ESB asked to extend Greystones services

Stephen Donnelly TD has told the head of the ESB that Greystones needs extra chargers for electric cars.

The Fianna Fáil Health Spokesperson has written to the CEO of ESB Networks, Pat O'Doherty, to explain that there's a lack of charging points in the town and suggested that more drivers might switch to electric vehicles if it was easier to recharge them.

Deputy Donnelly claims, "The government has recently allocated €20 million to add more charging points around the country. We know that priority is being given to locations along main roads but it makes sense for areas like Greystones, Delgany, Kilcoole and Newcastle to be included in the expansion plans also.

"In my letter to the ESB I outlined the fact that there are three main reasons to install more car chargers in our area. Number one, it's good value for money. Our high population density means large numbers of drivers could be catered for in a relatively small space. Number two, we are close to major transport routes. Greystones and the surrounding villages are located close to the N11 and M50 so chargers here could help cut down on so-called 'range anxiety', experienced by drivers worried about reaching their next place to plug-in. And number three, we could lead by example. Wicklow was the first county in Ireland to declare a Climate Change and Biodiversity Crisis after the motion originated in the Greystones Municipal District. There is a high level of demand for electric vehicles within our community and many constituents tell me they would switch to electric vehicles if chargers were easier to access. In this regard Greystones has the potential to become a leader in this field and could inspire other communities to follow suit.

"It is unfair to expect people to change their behaviour and shift towards more environmentally friendly transportation, often at significant cost, while failing to provide them with the necessary facilities to do so. My office has already been in touch with the ESB ecars Team who told us that locations for the new chargers are being chosen as we speak. This is the perfect time therefore to push for more charging points in Greystones and I'm delighted that the we've now made the reasons clear to the company's CEO," concluded Donnelly.



Minister for Health Simon Harris joined with Secretary Hillary Clinton last week to mark and celebrate 25 years of Barretstown providing care and fun for sick children in Ireland. Speaking about this milestone, Minister Harris said, "It is such a special place that has provided so much care and fun and memories to over 50,000 children and many many families - including many from County Wicklow. It was particularly special to have Hillary in Ireland to mark this occasion with us."

N81 SCHEME WILL NOT BE PROGRESSSED IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has criticised Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport, Shane Ross following correspondence from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) which states the N81 scheme will not be progressed during the National Development Plan 2018-2027.

TII has however allocated €500,000 to South Dublin City Council for road pavement improvement works on the N81 Blessington Road and further allocations totalling over €5 million have been provided to Wicklow County Council for improvement schemes at various locations on the N81 in the county.

Deputy Brady said last week "In a response I received from Transport Infrastructure Ireland they have said that the N81 Tallaght to Hollywood Cross Scheme is not included in projects that have been identified for development during the 2018-2027 period of the

National Development Plan and the advancement of the scheme can't be included in the national roads programme.

"Last year I presented Minister Ross with a petition containing thousands of signatures demanding that the critical upgrade scheme be progressed, I also arranged for him to visit West Wicklow to meet with public representatives and look at the dangerous condition of the road. The Minister hadn't even the courtesy to acknowledge receipt of the petition. Now when I raise the issue of the N81, the Minister completely passes the book on it.

"The plans which have

been worked on now for 10 years would see an upgrade of 31km of the N81, with a focus on improving the road safety and journey times for motorists using the road. After extensive public consultation a preferred route had been selected and a 300 metre wide corridor along the route has been frozen from any other development.

"I have consistently shown the Minister that the N81 is one of the deadliest roads in the County. According to a briefing report which was released by the Kildare National Roads Office, the current N81 between Tallaght and Hollywood

Cross has up to seven times the national average of head-on collisions, and two times the national average of single-vehicle crashes."

Deputy Brady concluded "We can't wait until 2027 for this project to be looked at or even considered. The major safety issues can't wait that long. The development of West Wicklow is also being strangled by the failure to progress the scheme. I am now calling on Wicklow Ministers Harris and Doyle to intervene with their Government colleague and ensure the project is progressed without delay."



Niall Burke shines his Jaguar at the East Coast Classic Vintage Car Show in Arklow

CSO Data reveals that burglaries are up by 36% in Wicklow

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) last week revealed the recorded crime rates for Ireland during the first quarter (January - March) of this year. Overall, burglaries and related offences fell by 4.6% to 4,226 incidents but in County Wicklow burglaries rose from 112 to 153, an increase of 36%.

While burglaries traditionally decrease with the brighter, longer days of summer, that is not to say that break-ins don't happen during the summer months. Many break-ins take place during this time when homeowners are away on holiday. In addition, the common practice of sharing holiday pictures and statuses on social media can act as a roadmap and open invitation to burglars. It's vital that there is vigilance applied to protecting one's home at all times.

Summer time also sees people leave windows and doors open during the much-promised heatwave. With projected temperatures of 28 degrees centigrade on the way according to Met Éireann. Irish homeowners may be more likely to leave windows and doors open in the warmer summer months and burglars to try to see if a door is unlocked for easy access.

HomeSecure CEO, Colm Daly, commented: "We never want to feel vulnerable in our own homes, and it's great to see many people are taking the correct measures to protect themselves. We're proud to be able to play our part in helping Irish homes to stay safe and secure. Coupled with good homeowner practices, vigilant Gardaí, and strong links in the community, we hope to see these numbers decrease next year. Home security is important all year round, we know our customers turn the alarm on and off at similar times throughout the year, staying in a steady routine. In the summer months, it's particularly important to use simple home security measures. With almost one in four summer burglaries gaining access to your home through an unsecured access point, just locking your doors and windows is a big positive step towards securing your home.

Celebrations in West Wicklow as Greenway funding confirmed

Minister Simon Harris joined Frank Curran, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, the Blessington Town Team, and Senior Management of the ESB last Friday to discuss the next steps in the delivery of the Blessington Lakes looped Greenway project.

Minister Harris has previously arranged and chaired meetings of the key stakeholders to prepare to submit the application and this week they met to welcome the exciting allocation of €5 million by the Government.

Speaking after the meeting, Minister Harris said: "It was fantastic to meet the key stakeholders and be able to confirm this multi million euro allocation to our County. This significant Government funding will transform tourism for West Wicklow.

"We know that Greenways in other parts of the country e.g. the Waterford Greenway, have transformed their regions. The benefits to local tourism and the local economy are phenomenal and these, added to the health benefits make a Greenway an invaluable community amenity for West Wicklow. This is a massive economic and social boost for our county.

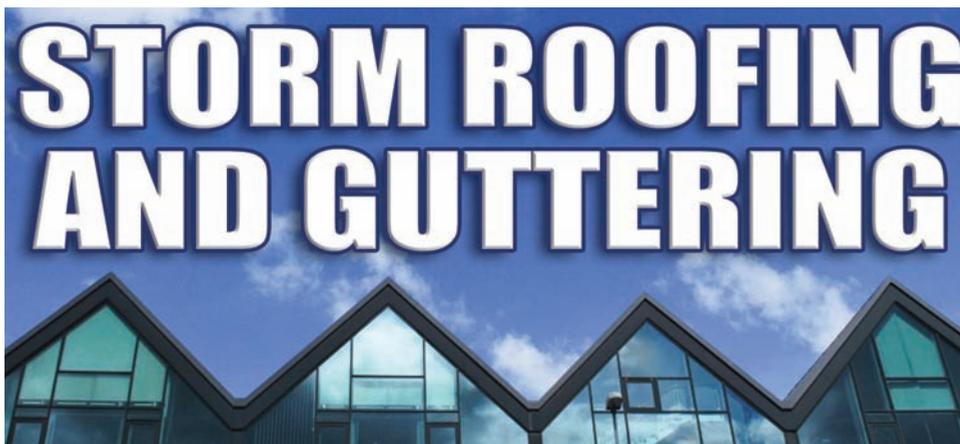
"Having organised and chaired many roundtable meetings with the key stake-

holders on this project, I am delighted the hard work of so many people dedicated to their community is coming to fruition. I want to thank the Blessington Town team and Wicklow County Council who have worked extremely hard on this.

"As a government Minister and local TD, I am delighted to be delivering on a project that will not only boost the local economy but also benefit the health of our community."



Minister Harris with John Horan of the Blessington Town Team and Frank Curran of Wicklow County Council at one of the Stakeholder meetings held by Minister Harris to prepare for the Greenway application



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Pictured at the launch of the Wicklow IFA Food From Our Farms exhibition were Tom Byrne, Vice Chairperson of IFA Wicklow, Phylis Mates, Chairperson of the IFA Farm Family Committee, Florence Dage, Coordinator of IFA Food From Our Farms Exhibition, and Isobel Johnson, IFA PRO for the Food From Our Farms Exhibition. Absent from photo is Catherine Shaw.

‘Food From Our Farms’ at the Tinahely Show

The IFA ‘Food from our Farms’ launch took place in the Woodenbridge Hotel on Tuesday 25th June. This is one of the landmark attractions at the Annual Tinahely Show. The Marquee is run by the IFA County Wicklow Farm Family Committee with Florence Dage as the Co-ordinator.

This year they hope to welcome a record number of exhibitors who come mainly from County Wicklow and the hinterland and are dedicated to producing food to the highest standard. There is, as always, a great variety of gourmet foods which vary from organic hot foods to artisan cheeses, fruit and vegetables, and plenty of sweet treats. Tasty burgers - organic lamb, barbeque beef and chicken will be sizzling to feed the hungry show-goers. There will also be strawberries and cream on the day and delicious home baking including gluten free. Many exhibitors will be doing tastings and are delighted to give advice on preparation and cooking methods.

Barry John Crowe, Butcher, one of their regular exhibitors will be in the Marquee with his flavoured sausages. Barry John sealed his place in the annual Guinness World Records book for 2019 when he broke the record for the most sausages produced in 60 seconds. He made 78 at an event in April 2017!

As in previous years they will have the beekeeper

with his hive of bees and this always draws a crowd of people, young and old alike all day.

The judging takes place during the morning with the Presentation of Cups, for overall first place and for best Wicklow Exhibit. Plaques are presented to the stands in 2nd and 3rd place also.

In addition, the IFA Farm Safety Competition is held each year in this Marquee. This competition is a ‘spot the dangerous situation on the farm that needs correcting’. Farm safety cannot be over-emphasised and this is a worthwhile exercise in alerting people to the dangers in farmyards given the fatalities that happen on farms each year. There are four prizes - €100 cheque, €100 voucher, €50 voucher and €40 voucher. The Committee wishes to acknowledge the generous sponsorship of this Competition received from M.A.Healy & Sons Ltd over the years.

With so much on offer the IFA Marquee at Tinahely Show is a ‘must visit’ this year on Bank Holiday August Monday.

Our Wicklow Women Exhibition

Greystones Archeological & Historical Society presents ‘Our Wicklow Women’, an exhibition in Greystones Library, which will be launched on 1st August from 7pm. Special guest will be Liz Goldthorpe. Liz will speak on her research into the life of Averil Deverell, a Greystones woman and a pioneering barrister. The launch and talk will be followed by a wine reception. Admission is free and all are welcome.

A good life explored

A conference exploring the life and faith of people with intellectual disabilities and their families, will be held at YWCA Coolnagreina, Trafalgar Road, Greystones; on 12th October from 9:30am to 4:30pm. 12 inspiring sessions; 6 passionate presenters. Details and booking from www.youevent.ie.

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CANCER RESEARCH CHARITY REACHES FOR NEW ALPINE HEIGHTS

On July 4th, 18 Irish people will set out to climb the Alpine summit of Pointe Burnaby, a 4,153-metre-high, snow-covered peak near the Matterhorn above Zermatt in Switzerland, all in aid of Greystones-based cancer research charity the Caroline Foundation.

Following several months of training across peaks and mountains in Wicklow, Kerry and Sligo, the group traveled to Zermatt on June 29th to spend four days acclimatising to the Alpine altitude before summiting Pointe Burnaby.

The climbing group includes a 72-year old veteran businessman, an entrepreneur, a former Dragon’s Den panellist and cancer survivor, a former radio station CEO and several other cancer survivors and supporters. Each member of the expedition has been touched by cancer, either personally or through a loved one.

Embarking on such a tough mental and physical challenge for the group, who have all been touched by cancer, either personally or through a loved one, takes strength, resilience and determination. This group has two clear goals in sight, to highlight the critical importance of medical research in Ireland into cancer and to raise funds for leading oncologist Professor John Crown’s research team via the Caroline Foundation.

Among the climbers is the Caroline Foundation’s chairman, Helen O’Sullivan-Dwyer (68) and her husband, 72-year-old businessman and hotelier, Dermod. The Caroline Foundation is named in memory of Dermod’s daughter Caroline Dwyer-Hickey who died in 2013 from HER2+, genetically triggered breast cancer. Caroline was aged 35 and lost her mother, Fidelma, to the same disease in 1989, aged just 38.

For nine years after her diagnosis, primary school teacher Caroline fought a spirited battle against her cancer and took part in experimental treatment trials with Professor John Crown, trials which helped extend her life. Simultaneous with the climb of Pointe Burnaby, fresh clinical trials are set to begin, led by Professor Crown and his team. Named Caroline I and Caroline II, these new trials build on the results of collaborative research, which was supported and facilitated by the Caroline Foundation, and have produced new insights into HER2+.

Speaking about



Frank Cronin, Bobby Kerr, and Liam Sheehan training as part of the Caroline Foundation Alpine Challenge group training at Lugmaquilla

Caroline I and Caroline II, Professor Crown said, “We are applying these insights into potential treatments for HER2+ triggered cancer, as well as other cancer types, such as triple negative.”

As the group prepare to depart for Geneva, Helen O’Sullivan-Dwyer, chairman of the Caroline Foundation said, “To quote Barry Finlay, ‘Every mountain top is within reach if you just keep climbing’, and this was never so true as with this group. This is a really tough personal, mental and physical challenge for all taking part, especially those who are survivors of cancer and have been touched by it.”

Commenting on the motivation for those on the expedition, she added, “The motive that drives each member of this wonderful group is to advance

cancer research in Ireland to find new treatments to alleviate and ultimately conquer cancer. And that motive is, indeed, very special!”

Those taking part include: Bobby Kerr, founder of the Insomnia café chain, former Dragon, radio personality and a cancer survivor; Liam Sheehan, former commercial director of An Post; Frank Cronin, former CEO of Newstalk FM whose treatment for cancer earlier this year necessitated the removal of his bladder, stealing his determination to make the climb nonetheless; Dr Hugh Gallagher, an addiction counsellor with the HSE; cancer survivor, Karen Hodgins, and her sister Thelma; Grace Delahunty whose sister-in-law, former Circuit Court Judge Katherine Delahunty, died of cancer

in 2015; Tara McMahon who has lost friends to cancer; school friend of Caroline Dwyer-Hickey, Sarah Conry-Cunningham and her husband, Al Cunningham; Denis Dwyer, Caroline’s brother; Dermod Dwyer, Caroline’s father and executive chairman of The Convention Centre Dublin, board director of Powerscourt Estate, and the Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA); equestrian industry accountant Mark Sherry; and recently retired Irish Times Deputy Editor and journalist Peter Murtagh.

The Pointe Burnaby Alpine Challenge will be led by explorer Bill Roberts of Delgany, fitness coach Adam Kelly of Pura Vida Greystones, and Miles Bright, an Alpine guide who is based in Chamonix.

Glendalough Country Market & Car Boot Sales

This has now moved to the 2nd Sunday of the month. Local and non-local producers of plants, vegetables, crafts, etc. are encouraged to take part. The next event will be on Sunday 14th July, from 10am to 4pm.

There will be bargains on practically anything from household items to garden additions, and even vintage or antique treasures. Vans must be booked in. Please pre-book indoor spaces early. Contact the Brockagh Centre on 0404-45600, email brockaghcarboot@gmail.com or brockaghoffice@gmail.com if you wish to book an indoor space or if you prefer to sell outside just show up at 8am on the morning.

Residents concerned about Meridian masts

An information day was held at the Meridian Centre in Greystones on Saturday, 29th June, about the planned 3G/4G masts to be erected on the roof of the centre.

Some residents of Burnaby Mews, which is located behind the Meridian Centre, are concerned about the possible health risks posed by the masts, which are to be located close to a preschool and after school club.

In March, Wicklow County Council authorised the installation of a large phone mast structure at the rear roof level of Meridian Point Centre. It will consist of six 2.5m high antennae, four transmission dishes on supporting poles including

multiple remote radio units (RRU's). The telecommunications installation will form part of a 3 Ireland (Hutchison) Limited broadband communications network. The planning application was submitted by Cignal Infrastructure Ltd, a newly formed telecommunications infrastructure Provider.

Campaigners opposed to the masts have called it "energetic air pollution" from "wireless microwave radiation". They are also concerned about property prices

being negatively affected. Signal state in their planning application that "The Greystones area and its immediate environs requires additional telecommunications infrastructure to provide for current and future 3G and 4G wireless coverage to the town. The subject application for a low impact rooftop telecommunications installation has been designed to address this situation but also to meet future services delivery as customer requirements of the network increase. The

proposed development has been designed to meet the aims and objectives of national, regional and local planning policy as detailed in the accompanying report."

They say that the infrastructure can be used to "enhance the mobile phone and wireless broadband services in the area to address an identified requirement to improve the coverage and capacity of mobile phone services and wireless broadband services available to the local community".

Old Bray Landfill Environmental Protection Scheme to go out for tender

A coastal defence and environmental protection that has been approved for the Old Bray landfill on the North Beach in Bray will go to tender in the next 4 to 6 weeks. The work is expected to take about 5-6 months to complete. The landfill is currently being washed into the sea.

Welcoming the progress John Brady TD said "I'm delighted that after campaigning for the last 14 years to get a resolution to the serious environmental problem at the old landfill at North Beach in Bray, things are now progressing. In January, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council approved coastal defence and environmental protection works at the Old Bray Landfill. The detailed design for the project is currently being finalised and it is expected that the project will go to tender in the next 4 to 6 weeks and it is envisaged that works will commence at Bray's North Beach later in 2019.

"The old dump which is located on the border between Wicklow and Dublin was used by the local authorities in Bray right up until the 1960s. It's estimated that it

contains more than 104,000 cubic metres of waste including, asbestos, excessive levels of ammoniacal nitrogen, potassium and manganese. Due to coastal erosion the old landfill has been getting washed into the Irish Sea, causing an environmental disaster.

"The proposed work consists of the placing of an armourstone revetment at the toe of the cliff at the landfill and stabilising the cliff face above by regrading to a long term stable slope. The work will prevent contaminated material reaching the foreshore. It is proposed to maintain beach access by means of a path along the cliff top and a set of access steps down through the revetment at the northern end."

Deputy Brady concluded "I have been working with Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, Wicklow County Council and the Environmental Protection Agency on this issue now for a considerable time and I look forward to works commencing later this year, bringing an end to this lengthy environmental disaster."



John Brady TD at the Old Bray Landfill

Wicklow Dementia Support Family Carers Support Group

This group meets once a month in St. Patrick's Parish Centre in Greystones, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This group meeting is for those caring for someone at home with dementia. It is an opportunity to meet for sharing in a confidential and facilitated setting. Details and dates of meetings from 089 4286928.

Musical Memories continues to meet weekly in St. Patrick's Parish Centre, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This group is for those suffering from dementia.

Both groups will continue to meet during the summer. Next Family Carers Support Group Meeting on 23rd August.



Shannon Barry and Dr Sean Higgins at the soft opening of Camile Thai in Greystones. Pic: Joe McQuillan

Failte Ireland's plans for Wicklow

Fianna Fáil TD Pat Casey recently attended Fáilte Ireland's Oireachtas Information Clinic for TDs and Senators to hear first-hand about the work Fáilte Ireland teams are doing on the ground in Wicklow to grow visitor numbers, increase tourism revenue and to support jobs across the constituency and region.

The National Tourism Development Authority provided Deputy Casey with a comprehensive update on Wicklow, detailing the work that Fáilte Ireland does on the ground and the many social and economic benefits that this work brings to Wicklow. Details on Fáilte Ireland's grant programmes, business supports, festival plans, training initiatives and future investments in visitor attractions and tourism businesses across Wicklow and Ireland's Ancient East were provided.

Failte Ireland says it is developing tourism opportunities in Wicklow from the TV show Vikings: "Fáilte Ireland has developed the 'Vikings' Visitor Experience Development Plan, which sets out to strengthen the county's offering as a Viking destination. As part of this plan, clusters of Viking experiences in Waterford, Wexford and Wicklow are being researched under the working title 'Viking Coast'. Initial results from consumer testing show that international consumers find the concepts motivating and interesting. The next phase of research underway involves testing

itineraries with tour operators and buyers. The outcomes of this research will feed into the Viking Development Activation Programme in the coming 18 months."

Also part of the plans is the 'Take of Two Worlds': "A number of Wicklow businesses are now taking part in a bespoke 15-month Great Houses & Gardens Experience

Development Programme. This programme is looking at the house and garden experiences available across the county including ways to develop guiding, events, cost and revenue management and sales distribution."

Wicklow County Council will also be able to bid for funding through Fáilte Ireland's 'Destination Towns' initiative to develop up to

two towns in their area that have the potential to become a tourism hub. The new scheme, which is now open for applications, will provide funding to enhance public spaces and attract more overseas visitors. The Ireland's Ancient East team is working closely with the council on its funding submission.



Fianna Fáil TD Pat Casey (centre) with Paul Kelly, CEO of Failte Ireland, and Justine Carey, Ireland's Ancient East Manager.



Pictured in St Kieran's school in Bray for the launch of the 'Easy Cookbook by the Community Kitchen' were Petra Mulvany, Joan Buckley, and Shiela Nunan. The Community Kitchen is a group of parents from St Kieran's school who came together every week in the school to learn new ideas for healthy meals for their families with the support of SPECS, Bray Area Partnership, Healthy Ireland, St Kieran's School and CYPSC (Children and Young People's Services Committees). All monies raised from the event and the sale of the cookbook went to Temple Street Hospital.

Potential presence of Pacific Pink Salmon

Inland Fisheries Ireland has appealed to anglers and the general public to be vigilant and report the presence of any Pacific pink salmon encountered in Irish river systems over the coming months.

In 2017, this non-native fish species unexpectedly appeared in unprecedented numbers in multiple river systems of the country.

As pink salmon predominantly have a two-year lifecycle, there is potential for the species to reappear in Irish rivers again this year and every second so called 'odd' year thereafter. However, they can also turn up in 'even' years and a single specimen was recorded in the River Suir in 2018.

Also known as humpback salmon, pink salmon are a migratory species of salmon, native to river systems in the northern Pacific Ocean and nearby regions of the Bering Sea and Arctic Ocean. The species also has established populations in rivers in northernmost Norway and in the far northwest of Russia, originating from stocking programmes undertaken in this part of Russia since the 1950s until 2001.

Although a single specimen was first recorded in Ireland in 1973, they were very rare in Irish waters until 2017. In the past week, pink salmon have been reported returning to rivers further south in Norway than anticipated which increases the likelihood of their reappearance in Irish rivers this year.

Dr Cathal Gallagher, Head of Research and Development at Inland Fisheries Ireland said: "The potential presence of pink salmon in Irish rivers again is of ongoing concern to Inland Fisheries Ireland as its presence in large numbers may negatively impact some of Ireland's native species such as Atlantic salmon and sea trout as well as estuarine and coastal marine fish species and their associated ecosystems. Despite only very limited information being currently available to assess such threats, the climatic and environmental conditions in Ireland are considered quite amenable to facilitate the establishment of Pacific pink salmon populations in Irish river systems."

Inland Fisheries Ireland has developed an identification guide to help anglers and the general public identify pink salmon. Anglers are asked to report catches of

pink salmon to Inland Fisheries Ireland's 24 hour confidential hotline number - 1890 34 74 24 or 1890 FISH 24. As these fish die after spawning, some dead specimens could also be encountered along Irish rivers. Anyone who catches a pink salmon is asked to: Keep the fish and do not release it back into the water (even in rivers only open for catch and release angling); Record the date and location of capture, and the length and weight of the fish; Tag the fish and present it to Inland Fisheries Ireland and a new tag will be issued to replace the tag used; Take a photograph of the fish.

Inland Fisheries Ireland will then arrange collection of the fish for further examination. This will help establish the abundance and extent of distribution of the species in Irish waters.



A Pacific pink salmon. Pic: Ola Ugedal

'MAN IN A VAN' DUMPING CONTINUES

Wicklow County Council is continuing to crack down on illegal waste dumpers and those who break the litter laws with a series of hefty fines being imposed by the courts last year.

In total 44 cases of illegal dumping in Wicklow were before the courts in 2018 with a total of €22,420 being imposed in fines.

The highest fine levied was €2,500. This involved a case of an individual dumping a skip bag of waste in Kilcarra, Arklow. The incident was captured on CCTV and the culprit was identified on the footage.

In addition, 350 litter fines were imposed by the Council. These fines are issued for incidents such as dumping waste, leaving items at bottle banks, throwing litter items from vehicles, ie plastic drink bottles, coffee cups, cigarette butts etc.

Three separate incidents of illegal burning of waste at Rathnew resulted in total fines of €1,200 while a similar fine was imposed for the dumping of green waste on the grounds of a sports facility.

A number of individuals were identified as responsible for a large volume of waste dumped in Charlesland, Greystones,

which led to the courts imposing fines and penalties totalling €1,000.

Over a dozen bags of waste dumped opposite Ballywaltrim Cottages in Bray resulted in two individuals being identified. The court imposed a total penalty of €900 made up of fine and costs.

A €500 Fixed Penalty Notice was issued by the Council to an individual for depositing waste at a facility without a Waste Collection Permit. The Penalty was not paid and the judge imposed fines of €975.

Penalties totalling €650 were imposed by the courts as a result of the illegal dumping of an individual's waste at a private housing complex in Marine Village, Arklow. Vehicle identification details confirmed the person responsible.

Two individuals were identified from four large bags of food waste dumped off Main Street, Davitt Road, Bray. Clean-up contributions of 650 were paid to the Council.

Illegal dumping of a

large volume of waste on O'Bryne Lane, Vevay Road, Bray, cost an individual €630 after evidence was retrieved from the waste.

A fine of €600 was levied by the courts in the case of illegal dumping at Fassaroe, Bray, after an individual admitted handing over waste to an unauthorised collector.

Three separate incidents of illegal dumping of waste at Lamb Hill, Manor Kilbride, Blessington, resulted in an unauthorised collector of waste facing a penalty of €530. Also, an individual agreed to contribute €500 to the Council towards the clean-up costs in this case.

In a similar case of waste dumped by an unauthorised collector at Boghall Road, Bray, a contribution of €500 was made by an individual towards the Council's clean-up costs. Some 50-70 bags of household waste dumped at Aurora, Glencree, and after evidence was recovered, an individual made a contribution of €500 towards

clean-up costs.

Two tonnes of waste dumped on a site in Charlesland, Greystones, resulted in €500 being paid towards clean-up costs. A similar sum towards clean-up costs was paid in the case of a person who gave their waste to an unauthorised collector and which was subsequently dumped at Boghall Road, Bray.

A driver who was seen throwing a cigarette butt out on to the roadway on Main Street, Arklow, ended up paying a total of €550 through a court fine and costs.

A truck load of waste was dumped at Seefin Road, Manor Kilbride, Blessington, near the Army base. Evidence was retrieved and an individual identified who faced a fine of €500.

Six bags of household waste dumped at the bottle banks at Gilsbur Heights, Bray, led to an individual paying fines and penalties of €500.

Fines and penalties in other cases ranged from €150 to €450.



Waste dumped in the Wicklow Uplands

Marine Institute confirms 'red tide' blooms off east coast

The Marine Institute has confirmed that the orange discolouration in the seawater along east coast shorelines is due to naturally occurring algal blooms.

The Marine Institute Phytoplankton Monitoring Programme monitors coastal waters around Ireland for phytoplankton and algal blooms on a year-round basis.

Speaking about the occurrence Joe Silke, Marine Institute said, "We have confirmed from samples the presence of a phytoplankton species called Noctiluca scintillans. These blooms have been reported along the east coast of Ireland for the past few weeks and are typical for this time of the year. Last year there were extensive blooms of the species in the south west of the country and we typically see them every year."

These algal blooms are a natural part of the phytoplankton life-cycle and species like Noctiluca scintillans are mostly harmless. The orange discolouration of the water is due to the presence of the Noctiluca scintillans phytoplankton bloom, and is sometimes called a red tide.

"This species is well known as a summer member of the coastal phytoplankton and can discolour the water to an orange or brown colour as the cell counts increase when it blooms or accumulates against the shoreline. Noctiluca scintillans is harmless to humans and fish just tend to avoid the accumulation where the water is discoloured. When the bloom decays or at night time there can be some deoxygenation of the water, leading to localised smells similar to other decaying algae such as seaweed," Mr Silke said.

Noctiluca scintillans is also bioluminescence, and at night blue light is emitted when disturbed by waves on the shore or in the wake of a boat.

Greystones north pier closed off 'for health and safety reasons'

Marina operator and harbour master for Greystones Harbour and Marina BJ Marinas told The Irish Times the organisation was very concerned at recent developments at the harbour.

The Harbour Master's spokesperson said the north pier was not blocked to keep the fishermen out, but was closed to everyone for health and safety reasons because the entrance to it is across a building site where the harbour apartments are being built.

He said BJ Marinas and their staff, as Harbour Master, were there to ensure the smooth running of the marina and wider harbour for all users and the public and the compliance of all users with the existing bye-laws of 2014 as the appointed authorised officer by Wicklow County Council. In many ways BJ Marinas was caught up in a row that was not of its making, he said. The Harbour Master and staff are simply performing their legal duties to the developer and Wicklow County Council.

The spokesperson said where the fishing boats had moored on the north wall was not only inaccessible, but along a fairway used by marina boat traf-

fic and not permitted under the bylaws. He said lines which had been left tied to the pier had been removed because they were tied to and blocking safety ladders, and because the north pier was closed. The three boats, owned by two fishermen, had been repeatedly advised verbally and in writing that they were not permitted to berth there.

The spokesperson said grease was not used on ladders on the pier. He said last year some anti-graffiti paint was used on ladders because children were jumping off the piers at low tides and this was dangerous because of sunken rubble. As well as sunken rubble, this is a busy marine fairway which made for dangerously close encounters between boats, their propellers, and children in the water. Several near misses were reported with potentially fatal outcomes narrowly avoided. Given the design of the fairway any mooring to the north wall poses significant health and safety issues, is

in breach of the byelaws and is illegal.

The spokesperson said a number of the bye laws were being broken and that this raises significant safety concerns for the operators and harbour master. Breaches included refueling trucks and trucks collecting catch moving around the harbour with no permission or safety strategy in place - "There are serious health and safety issues here and we would like to see this settled", he said as it has now started to affect tourism to Greystones as many boat owners have cancelled their visits to the Marina.

Following a recent meeting with the three fishermen effected by the ongoing issues at Greystones Harbour, and a separate meeting between the marina operators, Sisk, Council staff and Bord Iasca, Cllr Derek Mitchell said there are a number of issues regarding both the north and south pier.

At the north pier these include access problems

for commercial vehicles and 600 residents, and safety on pier. "The north pier is too narrow," said Cllr Mitchell. At the south pier problems include issues to do with space.

Cllr Mitchell said that placing a pier/pontoon out from the narrow slipway in the public harbour now needs to be investigated for feasibility.

"I think that any solution should be in the public section of the harbour, not the North Basin," he said.

Some front doors are only 3 metres from the road which HGVs are using. Fishing HGVs are driving where people including children are hauling dingies and canoes across a path and launching. Two children were almost run down in June. "I think a residents representative should be included in future discussions but this was not agreed," said Cllr Mitchell.

Cllr Mitchell also complained about rotten fish being left on piers, with 300 residents living very



Access to the north pier in Greystones has been blocked off

close to it, and the impact that extra waste from cleaning fishing boats is likely to have. "The North basin is a stagnant body of water, fairly clear at the moment. Extra waste, from cleaning fishing boats, is likely to produce a scum and foul water. Dead fish were a problem in the water around the fishing mooring area before."

Cllr Mitchell went on to state "Extensive fishing in Greystones ceased in the 1930s with the collapse of the harbour. This was slip launch based and excel-

lent slipways are now available. In the last 40 years there has been no significant fishing in Greystones. Access was only available from the difficult round end of the old Kish base and most moorings were aground all tide. In East winds it was very dangerous and boat insurance could not be obtained. Boats had to be taken out of the water or go to Dun Laoghaire when a storm was forecast.

"The needs of the 1 person (who supported the project) commercially

fishing a small boat from the harbour were not catered for when Bord Pleanala requested a redesign, following 6,000 submissions in 2006. I requested the boat yard be made smaller which would have helped him but was ignored. Some fishing interests were compensated. Some facilities, improved from the old harbour, were offered and moorings laid, a few years ago but were rejected as not practical. There now appear to be 3 larger boats requesting better facilities.

"Boat parks, clubhouses and good public launching facilities have been provided to the anglers, rowers, divers, sailors and Sea Scouts. Many hundreds of people who live in Greystones, who did not use it before, are now using the harbour and sea. Hundreds also now have homes in the area and around 12 work within the harbour. There are also tourism jobs in the town due to it. These are at risk if industrial fishing is allowed."

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Tidy Towns & MEN'S SHED

Newtown Tidy Towns and Newcastle Men's Shed work together on winning eco project

Newtownmountkennedy Tidy Towns, and Newcastle Men's Shed Association, recently cooperated on a unique environmental project, for which they have just received a Creative Ireland grant from Wicklow County Council.

Wicklow County Council invited applications under the Creative Wicklow Grant Scheme 2019, which had been put in place to support Wicklow County Council's role in the delivery of the Creative Ireland Programme 2017-2022. Applications were invited from not-for-profit organi-

sations, local community groups, arts, heritage and cultural groups, venues and societies. Applications by individuals had to be in partnership with a community, cultural or heritage group. The grant scheme seeks to find exceptional applications and support relevant activities, projects and events that offer opportunities for enhanced community engagement with creativity and cultural heritage in Wicklow. The application from Newtownmountkennedy Tidy Towns and Newcastle Men's Shed Association was successful.



Dermot Downes, Noel Sullivan and Paul Kavanagh with the Nature Boxes in the Newcastle Men's Shed



Willie Fitzpatrick making garden ornaments

Congratulations and thank you to all involved for your great work

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Tidy Towns & MEN'S SHED

This timely project by these two volunteering groups was devised in support of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan, and Biodiversity Awareness Initiative. The members of the Men's shed expertly constructed 10 bat boxes, 10 butterfly Boxes, 10 bird boxes and two squirrel boxes to be installed in the

Mountkenney Woods during June 2019. Three boxes, one of each, will also be installed in both the Senior and Junior schools, as interesting educational attractions for the children. Much research went into the manufacture of these boxes to attract the varied wildlife to their new homes. All timbers were

recycled and no paint or chemicals were used. The skills and talent within the Men's Shed is evident in the beautifully designed and finished ecoboxes. Newtownmountkenney Tidy Towns thank the local Men's Shed, and are proud to be associated with them on this excellent community project. The winning combination of



The herb garden at the Newcastle Men's Shed.



Pictured above is the Chairman of the Newcastle Men's Shed John Kelly with Pat Carey and Ned Hatton



Taking care of the Tomato plants



Willie Fitzpatrick puts the finishing touches to the nature products.



Pictured is Jack Byrne at the jig saw.

Best wishes to all involved



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talents in these two volunteering groups have resulted in their well-deserved recognition by Wicklow County Council. Grace Garde, a heritage in schools representative spoke to the children in the Primary school over the course of two days explaining the importance of providing and enhancing dry shelters within a habitat.

Newtownmountkenney & District



Tidy Towns

On behalf of our committee, we wish to thank all of our loyal and dedicated supporters for their financial, moral and physical support over many years. We are currently looking for new members who wish to be some way involved in our community efforts. You can make contact through our Newtown Tidy Town Facebook Page or email Newtowntidytown@gmail.com. To all our estates, well done on the overall work put into raising the landscaping standards within our community. Thank you to the businesses who support the hanging baskets which makes a great difference to the town. Also FAS, TUS and Wicklow County Council's ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to all and thank you for all you do in our community

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Bray Lakers opens new facility after devastating fire

Following a devastating fire which destroyed their original premises in October 2018, Lakers were joined by Minister for Health Simon Harris last Wednesday, to officially open their new club facility at the Old Schoolhouse on Eglinton Road in Bray.

The club - a social, recreational and sports club for children and adults with intellectual disabilities - which provides a support network for over 400 members and their families, experienced heartbreak in the early hours of October 5th last year, when their premises of 11 years was decimated by a fire. Spreading throughout the building, the fire also destroyed the club's four minibuses, which were an integral lifeline to the club's day-to-day operations.

Speaking about the impact of the fire, Lakers Chairman, Fergus Finlay, said "There was utter devastation felt right across the wider Lakers community, last October. Unfortunately, there are little or no social, recreational or sports services provided for people with



Minister Simon Harris unveils the plaque to officially open Lakers' new premises with Rebecha McCauley, Lousi O'Rourke and Daniel Ryan.

intellectual disabilities, outside those set-up by private organisations and charities. Without Lakers, our members would have nothing - nowhere to go for social

interaction and nowhere to learn and develop new skills. If Lakers ceased to exist, the impact of removing that support network would be detrimental to members and

their families.

"As difficult as it was after the fire, we all resolved that we would build something much better than we had for our members. The community rallied around us in the most magnificent way. Our staff team worked around the clock to get activities up and running again, in a variety of begged and borrowed locations, within days. Because of the generosity of the Presbyterian community in Bray, we were able to move into a new and better premises quickly, and we have devoted all our efforts to making that new premises as member-friendly as possible. A phoenix rose from the ashes - and that couldn't have happened without the magic that Lakers inspires in all of us. We are eternally grateful to those who came to our aid, when we needed it most."

Following the fire, the Presbyterian Church in Bray offered Lakers the use of an old schoolhouse - now home to their new premises on Eglinton Road in Bray. Through funding received, Lakers were able to renovate the schoolhouse and also replace two of the minibuses lost in the fire - enabling members to continue with their sport, social and recreational activities, just months after their future was in doubt.

Speaking at last week's launch event, Minister Harris said "Having grown up down the road in Greystones, I am acutely aware of the importance of Lakers and the services it provides to its members, their families and the wider community. I visited the Lakers team at the site of the fire last October and the sense of loss was overwhelming. Through sheer resilience and determination to do

32 different activities, for its members. With the help of its 160 volunteers, Lakers members take part in on-site activities, such as arts & crafts, dance, drama, computer skills, cookery, healthy living, music and music therapy, keep fit classes and pottery. The club also works with local facilities for its members, such as golf clubs, leisure centres and sailing, ski and rugby clubs.

Speaking about Lakers' future and the vision for the club, Fergus Finlay added "First and foremost, our priority is to get the club into a position that allows us to cater for every person that contacts us, but due to our current lack of space, we have waiting lists for many of our activities. We want to create an inclusive organisation for anyone with an intellectual disability, so they can have a choice in how they spend their time. The Lakers model is an excellent one and all of us would love to see similar clubs and



Minister Simon Harris with Marian O'Rourke at the official opening of Lakers' new premises

services opening right across the country. However, none of that is possible without regular funding and Lakers itself won't continue without regular funding. Today is a triumphant day in Lakers history,

but without continued support, none of this is possible."

For further information on Lakers, to donate to support, or to find out more about volunteering opportunities at Lakers, check out www.Lakers.ie.



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL DRAFT NOISE ACTION PLAN 2018

Environmental Noise Directive 2002/49/EC
Environmental Noise Regulations SI 140 of 2006

Wicklow County Council has prepared a Draft Noise Action Plan 2018 in compliance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Directive and the Environmental Noise Regulations referred to above.

The Draft Noise Action Plan 2018 reviews the results of Strategic Noise Mapping undertaken within County Wicklow and details the progress achieved in relation to the implementation of the previous Noise Action Plan. The Draft Noise Action Plan 2018 details the intended approach to be undertaken over the lifetime of the action plan (defined as five years) to manage and control environmental noise.

The Draft Noise Action Plan 2018 is available for inspection online on the Wicklow County Council website www.wicklow.ie.

Alternatively the Draft Noise Action Plan 2018 may be inspected at the following locations during normal opening hours i.e. 9.00am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) from the 4th July 2019 to 15th August 2019.

Wicklow County Council County Buildings, Whitegates, Wicklow, Co. Wicklow	Bray Municipal District Civic Offices, Main Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow	Arklow Municipal District Avoca River House, Bridgewater Centre, Arklow, Co. Wicklow
Greystones Municipal District Civic Offices, Mill Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow	Baltinglass Municipal District Blessington Civic Offices, Blessington Business Park, Blessington, Co. Wicklow	Wicklow Municipal District Town Hall, Market Square, Wicklow, Co. Wicklow

Any submissions or observations in relation to the Draft Noise Action Plan 2018 may be made by email to noiseplan@wicklowcoco.ie or alternatively in writing to, The Senior Executive Officer, Transportation, Water and Emergency Services, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow, within the period from 4th July 2019 to 15th August 2019. Submissions should be clearly marked "Draft Noise Action Plan 2018".



Cllr Melanie Corrigan, Stephen Finnegan, Mathew Davis, Derek Kelly, Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, and Walter Pallas are pictured at the official opening of Lakers' new premises



Claire Wright, Julia Callan, Derek Kelly, John Kichford, Ciara Fagan, and Neringa Dzidolikaite at the official opening of Lakers' new premises



Lakers team and staff members at the official opening of Lakers' new premises

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Running your own business is a stressful but good career and life choice. It demands your time and focus.

Start by expecting to live your work until it is established so it can get off the ground. There are many different opinions about how to start a business. Read on for some basic ideas and guidelines to get you started.

If you are thinking of starting a business there are a number of issues you need to consider. Different supports and regulations apply, depending on your particular situation. You may be employed, unemployed or someone who is coming from outside Ireland to set up a business. The Citizen's Advice Bureau highlights some of the important

information you need to know with links to relevant topics.

The website www.selfemployed-supports.ie has information on the services and entitlements available if you are self-employed and setting up a business. The most important thing is to come up with an idea. You will need an idea for a business before you do anything else. This should be something you are passionate about, since your

information you need to know with links to relevant topics.

The website www.selfemployed-supports.ie has information on the services and entitlements available if you are self-employed and setting up a business. The most important thing is to come up with an idea. You will need an idea for a business before you do anything else. This should be something you are passionate about, since your

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ping, taxes, workers' wages, rent for workspace, etc.

Write up a budget. Once you have a general idea of how much money you have to work with, write up a budget for marketing which indicates how much money you have available to spend on advertising.

new business will consume a great deal of your time and money.

Come up with business ideas by identifying things people need

Create ideas fitting your budget. Once you know how much

investing with you. Get local investors. If the bank loans will not be enough, look into local investors.

There may be a local business tycoon or Research people in your area who may have the funds and motivation to help you.



which no one else currently provides, that isn't provided in your area, or which you can provide better than anyone else.

Determine your cost of operation. You will need a solid business plan to present to any investors and the best place to start would be with determining your basic cost of operations. This will outline and help you determine how much money is needed to produce the product or offer the service you intend to offer or produce. It includes production costs, ship-

money you have, research the costs of different types of marketing and come up with ideas which fit those methods and are effective for the price range.

Talk with your bank. Talk with a bank with whom you already have a positive relationship. Ask about what kind of business start-up loans they offer and how they can benefit your business. By using a bank you already know, the bank will have easy access to your financial records and will be more confident in

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Greystones Girl Guide blasts off 'Into Orbit' in LEGO space mission



Amy Jennifer Kennedy (14), a member of Greystones Guides, is pictured after completing an 'Into Orbit' space mission in Dublin City University's LEGO Education Innovation Studio with (left) Irish Girl Guides' Chief Commissioner Helen Concannon and Prof Deirdre Butler of DCU's STEM Education, Innovation and Global Studies department

A Greystones teenager was one of 21 members of Irish Girl Guides (IGG) to successfully complete a mission to blast off 'Into Orbit' at a LEGO Robotics Summer Academy in Dublin City University's LEGO Education Innovation Studio.

The four-day camp, which was run by LearnIT LEGO, included many fun and challenging activities that helped the girls to develop skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Amy Jennifer Kennedy (14) of Greystones Guides worked with other Girl Guides from around the country to conduct research projects relating to real-world challenges. The girls, who were aged between 12 and 17, were selected from dozens of aspiring IGG space explorers who applied to take part in the project.

Through a series of hands-on, engaging workshops, the Girl Guides discovered programming

concepts, experienced elements of computational thinking and developed an understanding of a range of mechanical engineering procedures. They worked in teams of four researching topics as varied as radiation to depression and loneliness in space.

At the end of the four-day academy, each group gave a presentation on their research project at a special ceremony, which many of the girls' parents attended. Each team also participated in a robotics challenge using the robots they had designed and programmed.

Dara Callanan, an IGG Leader from Drogheda who has recently qualified as a Science teacher from DCU, said the Guides had enjoyed their time exploring STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). "It's been great to see them engage with STEM challenges in a fun and interesting way," she said. "It's great too to see them being collaborative

thinkers and resilient problem-solvers.

"Each group had to be determined to fix every problem they encountered, even when their robot seemed to have a mind of its own and wasn't quite doing what they wanted it to," she said. "Taking part in the academy reminded the girls that it's OK not to be perfect first time around and that making mistakes and working hard on something can actually make it better than it ever could be with just a perfect first try."

She continued, "The whole project has been fantastic - the girls have learned about maths, physics, engineering, communication, teamwork and so much more - and they had a great time while doing it. As a Science teacher myself, I love to see young people actively engaging in STEM and having the opportunity to really love doing it. Hopefully, it will encourage the girls to think about studying

STEM and see the value STEM skills add to all aspects of their lives."

At the special ceremony at the close of the Academy, each girl was presented with a certificate and a medal by IGG Chief Commissioner Helen Concannon and Prof Deirdre Butler of DCU's STEM Education, Innovation and Global Studies department.

"The girls have developed their STEM skills through the Academy and learned how to harness each person's individual skills so as to create amazing group projects," said Ms Concannon. "Working together, they have valued each person's contribution and impressed us with their ingenuity. They are excellent role models for our younger members and prove the relevance of STEM to all - both boys and girls."

Daire Keogh, Deputy President of DCU, said he was delighted to attend the ceremony."

Junior darts players heading to Gibraltar

Junior darts players from Wicklow will compete in the 2019 Junior Darts Corporation World Cup, the International Open and the World Championships in Gibraltar in September.

Sean Cummins and Jamie Lee Cummins are part of a team of nine that will represent Ireland in the three tournaments taking place from September 24th to 26th.

On Tuesday September 24th, The PDPA World cup is the first tournament on the agenda, a tournament where Team Ireland came runners up in Bristol UK in December 2018 narrowly losing out to The Netherlands after defeating them in the group stage.

And on Wednesday September 25th there is the International open where JDC Ireland's Sean Cummins came runner up in Bristol UK in December 2018.

On Thursday September 26th is the 2019 Scott Farms Junior Darts Corporation World Championship, again another tournament where Ireland was successful in Bristol UK in December 2018 with Kidare's Killian Heffernan reaching the semi finals.

As every other year the finalists of this tournament contest the final at the holy grail of darts, The Alexandria Palace in London.

Junior Darts Corporation Ireland founder, Carlow's Keith O' Neill says he is extremely proud of all the players that have worked so hard to guarantee qualifica-

tion for these prestigious Junior Darts Corporation events and anticipates a very successful 3 days in Gibraltar.

"JDC Ireland have players that can compete at the very highest level and can match any junior dart player in the world, along with JDC Ireland coaches (Dublin's Stephen Sheldon and Brian Doherty and Keith's daughter Zoe Doyle) we have seen first hand on a weekly basis what these players are capable of not only at last years events but every single week at JDC Ireland headquarters at The Roadstone group sports club Tallaght."

Keith added "When I formed Junior Darts Corporation Ireland over 3 years ago it was with the sole intention of having the first ever Junior Darts World champion from the Island of Ireland and with us being runner up in both the 2018 World Cup and European Open along with semi-finalists of The 2018 World Championships I truly believe we are still on course for that, and don't be surprised if it happens on The Rock this year."

If you are aged 10 - 17 and want to compete with the very best Junior darts players in the world right at your own doorstep in Dublin, Junior Darts Corporation Ireland wants to hear from you. Contact Keith at keithoneill887@gmail.com.

Media agency earns All-Ireland Business All-Star accreditation

Twenty-year-old BIFE graduate Josh Loveridge has received an All-Ireland Business All-Star accreditation for his company Loveridge Designs Ltd.

The coveted All-Ireland Business All-Star accreditation is only held by 350 firms nationwide.

Loveridge Designs is a full-service media agency which focuses on a data-driven content creation pipeline offering services ranging from video pro-

duction to web development. It is owned and operated by Josh.

The award is an independently verified standard mark for indigenous businesses, based on rigorous selection criteria.

The accreditation is overseen by the prestigious All-Ireland Business Foundation, whose adjudication panel is chaired by Dr Briga Hynes of the KEMMY Business School at the University of Limerick and Kieran Ring, CEO of the Global Institute of Logistics.

Loveridge Designs works extremely closely with some of the biggest brands around the globe such as Microsoft, Sony, Redbull, Miele, and The Hilton Group.

Dr Hynes said "We evaluate a company's background, trustworthiness and performance, and we speak to customers, employees and vendors, We also anonymously approach the company as a customer and report back on the experience. The business goes through at least two interviews and is scored on every part of the process against set metrics."



Josh Loveridge of Loveridge Designs

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ARKLOW CANCER SUPPORT GROUP



Arklow Cancer Support Group is celebrating its 10th anniversary. To mark the occasion, an event was held in the centre on Sunday, 30th June, which saw clients, family and friends gather to celebrate the voluntary organisation.



The garden at Arklow Cancer Support Centre

Arklow Cancer Support was established by Mary O'Brien in 2009. Mary started Arklow Cancer Support after recognising a need in the area for such a service. Mary's daughter Orla sadly passed away at the age of 22 at a time when there was

no cancer support service in the town. Mary then started holding monthly meetings which were well attended, and the need for a cancer support centre in the area became clear. Arklow Cancer Support Group offer

practical and emotional support for patients, family and friends from Arklow and the surrounding area. Arklow Cancer Support is a voluntary organisation that relies on fundraising and donations from the general public. They

receive no funding from the HSE or the Government. Local schools, businesses, and the community of Arklow all help to keep the service running.

Arklow Cancer Support provide the local community with a wide range of core services including specialised therapies, complementary therapies, volunteer driving and counselling, as well as essential information services and classes.

Arklow Cancer Support has grown considerably over the last decade, and now caters to almost 600 clients. Over the last 10 years, almost 3,000 trips have been made for radiation therapies, thanks to their volunteer driver programme which provides daily transport to and from hospitals in Dublin. Two cars are manned by a dedicated team of drivers who give up their time to make sure clients make their appointments on time, safely and in a relaxed way, without the stress or hassle of having to arrange their own transport or rely on public transport.

Starting out at a premises on King's Hill, Arklow Cancer Support moved to a new larger home three years ago on St. Mary's Road.



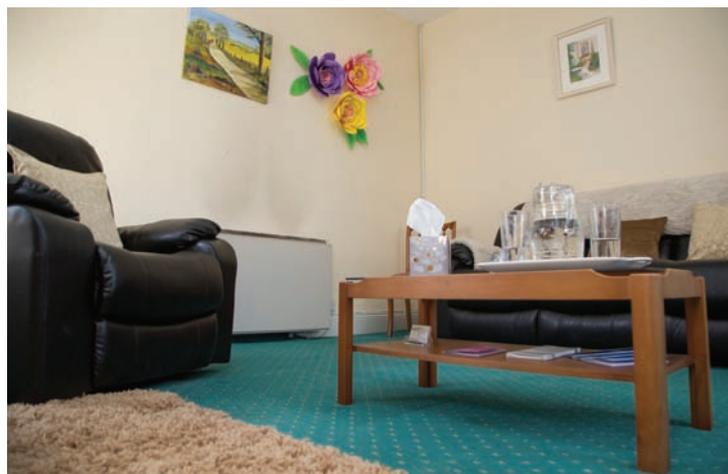
Arklow Cancer Support staff members Laura, Malinda, and Mary

A key element of Arklow Cancer Support is the counseling, which is offered to cancer patients, their families, bereaved relatives, and children affected by cancer. Specialised and

confidential support is provided for adults, adolescents and children to help them cope with a cancer diagnosis. Other services on offer at Arklow Cancer Support include pro-

thesis and bra fitting, while a local hairdresser provides wig fitting services. There is a men's group, art classes, meditation and creative writing sessions, and mindful-

ness therapies. Arklow Cancer Support is located at 8 St Mary's Rd, Arklow. Call them on 0402 23590 or 085 1100066, or email arklowcancersupport@gmail.com.



The counselling room at Arklow Cancer Support



The Arklow Cancer Support annual 5k fun run took place on Sunday 30th June. Last year, over 250 people took part and helped AIB staff raise over 7,000 which went towards supporting the vital work that Arklow Cancer Support does on a daily basis.

Congratulations on your 10th Anniversary

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Congratulations to Arklow Cancer Support on your 10th Anniversary

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The sun shone on the Shaking Bog Festival in the Glencree Valley

Crowds gather for Shaking Bog Festival

Crowds of people gathered in the Glencree Valley over the weekend of 22nd-23rd June for the inaugural Shaking Bog Festival of Nature Writing.

On Saturday the sun shone down over the family day (in association with Fighting Words) at Aurora House where children attended a broad range of workshops including, songwriting, graphic fiction, bird box building and art. It was a joyful day enjoyed by a wide range of children of all ages. Indeed, it seemed sometimes that the parents were enjoying everything about the activities just as much as their children.

Later in the afternoon, there was haunting reading of JM Synge's classic Wicklow play, *In The Shadow of the Glen*, deep in the woods at Oak Glen. Professor Nicholas Grene

- the founder of the Synge Summer School at Rathdrum - gave the audience a fascinating introduction.

In the evening at Glencree Peace & Reconciliation Centre, there was also a moving and entertaining poetry reading from award-winning British poet Pascale Petit as well as from the legendary Paul Durcan. Durcan, as always, is a charismatic reader of his own poems and opened with a powerful tribute to Seamus Heaney.

Sunday morning started early with some outdoor activities based out of Knockree Hostel - moth-watching with Kieran Finch, nature trails with

Declan Murphy, a stunning wildlife camera workshop with Emmy award-winning cameraman Theo Jebb and Kerry Walker's forest therapy experience.

Back up at Glencree Centre, there were powerful readings from writers such as Katie Donovan, Jane Clarke, Carlo Gebler and special guest John Lewis-Stempel who talked passionately about farming and nature.

An amazing weekend came to a brilliant climax in St Kevin's Church, Glencree with a stellar line-up of performers including The Square Pegs, piper David Power, Fugato, the inimitable Flo McSweeney and Liam

O'Maonlai of the Hot House Flowers. There were also short readings and a timely reflection from Green Party leader Eamon Ryan before a jam-packed audience. This remarkable manifestation of the philosophy of "thinking local and acting global" came to a conclusion with a stirring rendition of Bob Dylan's *Forever Young* from the assembled musicians.

Festival Director, Catherine Nunes, took the stage to say a few words of thanks and was greeted by warm and fulsome applause. She - and her local sponsors King Tree Services - should be very happy with this inaugural festival, an important and timely fusion of nature and art. Let's hope we hear more from the Shaking Bog.

Let your colours run free

Let Your Colours Run Free is the documentary story of TransGreystones - the first "small town" peer support group in Ireland for transgender and non-binary people.



Let Your Colours Run Free will be screened in the Whale Theatre on 18th July

It will be screened in the Whale Theatre on Thursday 18th July at 8pm.

The film follows their journey led by founders, Sara, Sam and Simon, to forge links with other local community groups and share the members' talents and inner-most thoughts through a public art exhibition.

The film is a gentle exploration of the challenges faced by trans and non-binary people in rural and suburban Ireland and how creative arts help their mental health.

It is an invitation to the wider community to develop a deeper understanding - to create a community where trans and non-binary people feel safe and respected - so they don't feel that they must leave their homes and families to find a place they feel safe to express their true inner selves.

Doors open at 7pm. Tickets €10. See www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on (01) 2010550.

Wonderful Wicklow memories included in new National Museum of Ireland book

'Happy Days and Hard Times', a superb collection of visitor memories at the National Museum of Ireland - Country Life has just been reissued for print due to its initial success.

The book is a series of stories contributed by the general public during their visit to the museum and draws on their experiences and memories of country life. Included in the collection are memories from a County Wicklow visitor who remembers seeing the sparks from the blacksmiths forge in Baltinglass. The book is a thought provoking response to the extensive Folklife collection held at the museum.

This beautifully sentimental book, which evokes strong memories such as collecting hay in the summer or fetching water from the well, was compiled by the Museums documentation officer, Joanne Hamilton. The project was initiated in 2013 to encourage Museum visitors to engage in the process of reminiscence during their visit.

Using specially designed memory sheets, visitors were invited to

record their memories and stories of country life. These individual memories were then added to a growing archive of personalised accounts which was organised by Hamilton for publication and complemented by an array of archival images from the Irish Folklife Collection.

Talking about the project, Ms. Hamilton says "As a Museum, the National Museum of Ireland - Country Life is in a unique position in that many of the themes and objects that it exhibits are still in living memory for many visitors either directly or indirectly, through accounts from parents and grandparents. Having overheard visitors regularly engaging in reminiscence whilst talking together in the galleries, I saw the potential to harness this by enabling visitors to record these stories and memories in a simple way. In doing this, the personal stories

and memories recorded can contribute to the broader narrative that the Museum represents.

"What we've found is that visitors buy a book for themselves, older relatives or those living abroad. The thought-provoking stories resonate with so many; those visits to the bog with the flask of tea or cycling the countryside. It brings people into a simpler past, a past filled with colour and conversation, a past where children ran through fields till dusk and neighbours sat for hours whiling away time.

"Of course, as the book title suggests, not all of the rich memories of country living are surrounded with that wistful glow; the undercurrent of hard times comes to the fore as people recount their stories. Poverty, overcrowding and hunger all quietly resonate in these simplistic tales of old."

Amongst in the many memories revisited in the

book, are stories by people from all corners of the country as well as one contributed by well-known Irish singer/songwriter, Christy Moore, who recalls listening to Michael O'Hehir on the wireless or hearing the day old chicks chirp underneath the settle bed.

Members of the public can still contribute memories and stories of country life to the memory book project either via the memory sheets which are available at the memory corner at the National Museum of Ireland - Country Life or by downloading a memory sheet from the museum website www.museum.ie and returning it with your written memory to Joanne Hamilton, The National Museum of Ireland - Country Life, Turlough Park, Castlebar, Co. Mayo.

Copies of the book are available at any of the book shops at the 3 National Museum of Ireland sites in Dublin: Collins Barracks, Natural History and Archaeology.

Art is the Place we Meet

The work presented in this exhibition by is the result of the activities of the residents' Art Group in Leopardstown Park Hospital. It will run in the Singal Arts Centre from 8th July to 21st July.

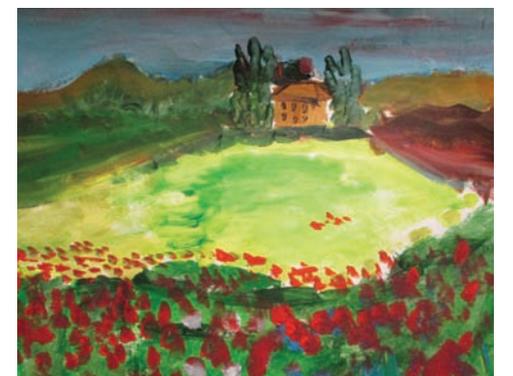
The provision of this service for residents stems from the strong belief in the power of art to connect people, to enable communication, to alleviate suffering and lessen the burden that illness brings.

Some of the artists involved in the project have never painted before, others are well experienced but for all of them to pick up the brush and step into the creative journey in health care settings was an act of courage and determination. We have been trying not to focus on the images around; but on those emanating from inside. Works in this exhibition are the images

of emotions, ideas, sensations, struggles, memories transferred to the canvas, paper, bread boards and even table cloths; they are the proof of strength of human spirit and creativity.

The Art Group consists of 10 to 15 people meeting on regular basis, offering strong support to each other and giving encouragement through difficult moments. Our aim is to encourage any form of creative expression not only through painting but also writing, sculpting or music.

The Art Group is led by the Resident Services Activity Coordinator Marta Nowakowska under supervision of



Artwork from the forthcoming exhibition: Art is the place we meet

Resident Services Manager Paula Carraher. Marta is a psychiatric nurse and an artist herself with a broad training in the field of using art as

therapeutic intervention and component training certificate in Arts and the Community by Age and Opportunity.

Coming up at Mermaid Theatre...

Anna Newell Sing Me To The Sea

'Sing Me To The Sea' is a multisensory adventure for children and young people (ages 1 - 12 years) with complex needs created by Bray-based theatre director Anna Newell in collaboration with composer David Goodall.

'Sing Me To The Sea' is performed in hydro pools with 3 audience members per show, each with an adult companion - with everyone in the water!

Monday 8th - Friday 12th July | 10am, 11.30am and 2pm | Tickets: €10 Child. (accompanying guardian in water - free). Booking through box office only on 01-2724030.

In association with Project Arts Centre Pop Up Mermaid

Take a leap of faith into the unknown with Mermaid Arts Centre this July where, for one night only, POP UP MERMAID will present a line-up of delectable bite-sized performances across theatre, dance and film.

Curated by Nyree Yergainharsian and Shaun Dunne, and featuring a series of post-show conversations that bridge the gap between artist and audience. So, pop up, chill out, have a drink and get familiar with some of the amazing artists that inspire Mermaid Arts Centre. Saturday 13th July | 8pm | Tickets: €12/10.

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Joannw Katus, Maeve Hunter, and Sara Rubalcava with 3rd and 4th class pupils from Kilcommon National School, Tinahely, at the River Derry Bubbles Project exhibition in Tinahely Library

Popularity of traditional Irish names on the decline with the rise in names originating from the UK and US

My Nametags, the manufacturer of easy to apply sticker and iron-on name tags, have released details on the most popular names on the Irish market for their personalised labels, with Jack in number one slot for boys names and Emma for girls. The top 10 most popular names for nametags in Ireland based on orders received for the past three years are as follows:

- Boys: 1. Jack; 2. Daniel; 3. Conor; 4. Harry; 5. Adam; 6. Luke; 7. Darragh; 8. Matthew; 9. James; 10. Sarah
- Girls: 1. Emma; 2. Emily; 3. Grace; 4. Lucy; 5. Aoife; 6. Kate; 7. Ella; 8. Ava; 9. Anna; 10. Unsurprisingly these listing from My Nametags don't differ too much from the top baby names in Ireland for 2018 which also saw Jack and James in first and second place while Emily was number one for girls

and Emma sat in third spot. Also noteworthy on both My Nametags and the top baby names listings is that there seems to be a move away from traditional Irish names with Darragh and Aoife the only Irish names that made the top 10 names. When we look at the popular baby name listing from just 10 years ago in 1998, Irish names were a lot more popular with Ciara sitting in 2nd spot while Niamh ranked at number 6. For the boys, traditional Irish boys'

names such as Ciarán (which stood at 24 in 2018) and Eoin (which stood at 20 in 2018) have declined in popularity too with Ciarán now standing at 78 spot and Eoin at 58 spot. This indicates that Irish society is moving away from traditional Irish names and choosing instead 'trendier', more international names that originate from countries including the UK and the US.

Another reason for the decline in traditional Irish names seems to be the preconceptions and opinions internationally on Irish names. The issue of pronunciation of names is a major issue with people in the UK and US with problems pronouncing traditional Irish names such as Maeve, Saoirse and Aoife which is putting a lot of Irish people off choosing these names for their children.

It all adds up for Wicklow's top exam scorer Simon

Gaining top marks in the Diploma for Accounting Technicians programme has given a Wicklow-based mature student a springboard to a better career.

Simon Sheridan (40) from Aughrim secured one of the top marks in the country in the course last year.

Twelve months on and the former music therapist has just sat his first exams in his Chartered Accountancy studies after deciding to continue his education.

Accounting Technicians Ireland's qualification is recognised as the fastest pathway to a professional accounting career.

"I'm working in Copsy Murray Chartered Accountants in Arklow, and also pursuing my studies online," said Simon.

"The ATI course was fabulous and gave me the perfect foundation to realise that I loved the area and wanted to further my career in it.

"The course also allowed me four exemptions in the modules I have to complete over the next three and a half years, because I had them comprehensively covered with the ATI.

"The ATI course was fantastically run and the tutors were so supportive. It doesn't need prior learning and covers a wide range of subjects.

"I was only expecting to learn about accountancy, but I also covered business management, ethics and a lot more that would assist anyone in their future options."

The Accounting Technicians Ireland qualification is a passport to a rewarding career in accountancy or business. The Accounting Technicians Ireland (ATI's) qualification, offered full or part-time, is open to the countless number of people who have been working in industry or small practice firms for years but have no formal training, as well as to school and college leavers, and mature students.

Over 70 colleges around the country offer ATI's flexible courses which allow students to obtain this professional qualification in as little as two years.

"This is a pan-sectoral qualification which meets the needs of industry, practice and the public sector, and graduates enjoy exemptions from the full range of professional accountancy bodies including Chartered Accountants Ireland, ACCA, CPA, CIMA as well as Higher Education third level accounting programmes," said Gillian Doherty, ATI's Chief Operations Officer.

"Many businesses finance the programme for potential Accounting Technicians - recognising the benefits of having a qualified technician run the financial side of the business while the owner develops the entrepreneurial end."



Simon Sheridan from Aughrim, one of the top scorers in the Accounting Technicians' Ireland Diploma, with Colm Byrne, partner at Copsy Murray Chartered Accountants, Arklow. Pic: Barbara Flynn.

The Epiphany of Eileen O'Keeffe

This absurdist clowning piece that focuses on the joys of everyday life can be seen in the Whale Theatre in Greystones on 12th July.

Characters use movement and dance to find a sense of fun in their monotonous lives. It is an exhilarating show that aims to delight and inspire audiences, filled with raw energy, fresh innovation and a lot of laughs.

More details for this special Whale Theatre event from whaletheatre.ticketsolve.com. Details of all future Whale Theatre events from www.WhaleTheatre.ie.

Doors open at 7pm, show starts at 8pm. Tickets, 10/ 7.

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Wicklow's new heritage portal

Community groups and heritage enthusiasts in Wicklow are being invited to participate in the pilot of a new heritage portal for the county.

At the recent plenary meeting of the County Wicklow Public Participation Network in Brockagh, Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer and Catherine Wright, archivist with Wicklow County Council, outlined the background to "Our Wicklow Heritage", Wicklow's online community heritage archive which was set up as an action of the County Heritage Plan in 2014.

Since that time the site has gone from strength to strength with an annual global audience of 60,000 plus and has proved an imaginative and effective way of connecting people worldwide with stories and information about people, places and topics of Wicklow interest.

It is an open access website meaning that interested individuals register as users and upload text, images, oral recordings or audio-visual footage. To date there are over 500 registered users.

The Wicklow

Heritage Forum now wishes to evolve "Our Wicklow Heritage" to be part of a multi-platform site, an umbrella under which individual heritage recording groups in the county can each have their own independent websites which they manage and for which they are responsible for generating content.

Ms Lorna Elms, Education Officer with the National Museum of Ireland, explained the ethos behind iCAN, the Irish Community of Archive Networks of which Wicklow is a member, saying that community archives bring many benefits to participating individuals and groups, not least in recording and preserving aspects of local heritage, history and culture but also act as a generator of "Cultural Capital" and a stimulus for social cohesion and pride of place.

Expressions of interest are now being sought from groups interested in being part

of the new portal. Selected groups will be those that are currently actively recording some aspect of their local heritage, be it wildlife, archaeology, history or folklore, and that can commit to continuing to do this and to participate as members of iCAN.

In return for participation, groups benefit from being part of a national network of community sites, availing of the training, supports and the networking opportunities that this brings.

Expression of interest forms, along with further information, are available at www.countywicklowheritage.org and should be completed and returned by 5th July.

For any queries contact Deirdre Burns or Catherine Wright at Wicklow County Council on: T: 0404 20100 or E: dburns@wicklowcoco.ie, cwright@wicklowcoco.ie



A group of French travel professionals - including representatives of online travel agencies and traditional tour operators, all specialising in luxury travel - were visiting Wicklow and Ireland recently as guests of Tourism Ireland, Fáilte Ireland and Luxurious Ireland. The French travel professionals' action-packed itinerary included trips to Glendalough and Powerscourt Waterfall. They also enjoyed an overnight stay in the Powerscourt Hotel. Pictured are French luxury travel agents with David Collier (fourth right) and Serge Fonseca (fifth right), both Tourism Ireland; Jack Owens, Fáilte Ireland (sixth right); and Tanya Dawson, Luxurious Ireland (third right).

New principal announced for Newtown ETNS

Educate Together has announced Dr. Nicola Martin Hodgins as Principal of Newtownmountkennedy Educate Together National School. Nicola will lead the school community in their new school that will open in the Wicklow town this August. Nicola is replacing Gemma Curry, the previously announced Principal, who is unable to take up to role due to other commitments. Gemma remains a strong supporter of Newtownmountkennedy ETNS.

A dedicated Primary teacher for over 18 years, Psychologist and Doctor of Education and a specialist in leading childhood wellbeing and resilience interventions at school, Nicola has had roles as Mainstream teacher, Special Education Co-ordinator, Assistant Principal and Acting Deputy Principal. In this time, she tapped into the wealth of diversity within schools and worked alongside children, families and staff in illuminating the latent power of the pupil's voice in education.

Said Nicola on her appointment: "My joy of instilling a love of life-long learning in children is coupled only by my enthusiasm for stimulating the child's inquiring mind using holistic teaching approaches such as enquiry-based learning, drama, mindfulness and experiential learning."

Nicola continued, "My vision is driven by the Aristotelian concept that 'educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all' and I am both delighted and privileged to be appointed Principal of Newtownmountkennedy Educate Together National School. I look forward to working together to cultivate a welcoming, stimulating, caring and thriving school for all. A learning community that not only nurtures the holistic development of each child but celebrates the Educate Together ethos of empowering democratically run, equality-based, co-educational, child-centered education."

Anne Gregory, Chair of the school's start-up group, said "We are delighted to welcome Nicola as our Principal. Her reputation as a teacher precedes her and we are sure she will be a tremendous leader of our school community as it grows and develops."

Newtownmountkennedy ETNS will open its doors on Thursday August 29th in temporary accommodation in



the town. The Department of Education and Skills are completing the acquisition of a site for the school with construction scheduled to commence on the "state of the art" building in the coming years.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, First Care Ireland (Earlsbrook) Ltd., intend to apply for permission for development at this site Earlsbrook House, 41 Meath Road (A Protected Structure) & 42 Meath Road, Bray, County Wicklow. The proposed development will consist of the construction of a first floor bridging link, connecting no. 41 Meath Road (A Protected Structure) and no. 42 Meath Road; Provision of an internal passenger lift located between no. 41 & no. 42 Meath Road; Removal of an en-suite shower room at no. 41 Meath Road and the construction of a new internal corridor at first-floor level to include an opening in the gable wall at first floor level to connect with the proposed first-floor bridging link; Internal alterations at ground floor level (No. 41 Earlsbrook House) to accommodate works, and all associated site development works. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of 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.

-CLASSIFIEDS-

Recruitment • Planning Notices • Prayers

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I hereby give notice of submission of significant further information to Wicklow County Council in relation to planning application 18/1359 for John Belton who is applying for permission at Castlekevin, Annamoe, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow, for two storey dwelling, garage, entrance, laneway, wastewater treatment system, soil polishing filter, well and associate works, wishes to state that significant further information or revised plans, as appropriate, in relation to the application has been furnished to the Planning Authority, and is available for inspection or purchase at the offices of the authority during its public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to the further information or revised plans may be made in writing to the planning authority within the period of 2 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the revised newspaper and site notices. A submission or observation must be accompanied by the prescribed fee within except in the case of a person or body who has already made a submission or observation.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplansdesign.com) Seeks outline planning permission for a dwelling with connection to services, entrance, and associated works at Karuna, Old Village, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow for M. Cleaham. 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.

THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

Dear Heart of Jesus in the past I have asked for many favours. This time I ask you this very special one. (Mention request) Take it, dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your broken Heart where your Father sees it. Then, in his merciful eyes it will become your favour not mine. St Anthony and St Jude, helper of the hopeless, aid me in my distress. Amen. Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and favour will be granted. Never known to fail.

M.D.; M.F.

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Contacts:
Shay Fitzmaurice, Managing Editor - shay@localtimes.ie
Ian Colgan, News Editor - ian@localtimes.ie
Erika Doyle, Features Editor - erika@localtimes.ie
General enquiries - info@localtimes.ie

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