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GREENWAY FUNDING page 8



100TH BIRTHDAY page 12

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Tuesday 25th June 2019 5 Eglinton Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow Tel: 01 - 2869111 www.wicklowtimes.net E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie

GENDER-NEUTRAL SCHOOL

St. Brigid's National School in Greystones gained national attention last week when news of its new gender-neutral uniform policy became known.

From the start of the new school term, males and females in all classes in the school will have the choice to wear either trousers or a skirt.

Speaking to *Wicklow Times*, Chair of the Board of Management, Tom Sherlock, explained that the policy decision was made a couple of months ago and that the new policy has been "very well received".

Mr Sherlock explained that the idea came from the students themselves - the 6th class pupils who form the student council.

"Four students came to the principal, Maire

Costello, with the idea, as they were made aware of one child in the school that was uncomfortable with the uniform they had to wear.

"They asked that we move to a gender-neutral uniform policy. They went away, developed their arguments, carried out a survey, and presented their case to the principal, who then brought the idea before the Board of Management which supported the idea. Parents were contacted through email, and the feedback was universally positive.

"The policy will now

be in place from the start of the next school year. The uniform will not change, pupils will just have the choice of which one to wear." The boys have traditionally worn grey trousers while the girls have worn green plaid skirts.

The school will also begin phasing in gender neutral toilets. Mr Sherlock explained that this process would be straightforward and would not involve any structural work to the school. It will just be a case of removing the boy and girl designations.

"There are boys' and



Katie Byrne, Sarah Arslan, and Angel Kavanagh are pictured at the launch of the Rathdrum Youth Service 'Inspire Youth Centre' on Rathdrum Main Street



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girls' toilets at the back of each classroom," he said. "They consist of two cubicles, there are no urinals, so there will be no cost or structural work required."

Mr Sherlock added: "This is an indication of our wish to move in a more inclusive direction. We are a catholic school but the catholic ethos is about embracing everyone irrespective of gender, race, whatever."

Clr Jennifer Whitmore, on Facebook, congratulated St. Brigid's on the new policy: "It's one of those issues that can elicit a negative knee-jerk reaction. It stretches our belief systems and makes us question our norms. But societal norms change. It's not so long ago that women couldn't wear trousers, skirts with pockets in them or bikinis. Schools should be inclu-

sive places, a place where everyone feels like they belong. And, really, your clothing shouldn't define you. Your behaviour should."

Independent councillor Joe Behan, former principal of the large St. Fergal's school in Bray said, "While supporting the absolute right of any school BoM to decide on its own school uniform, I believe as a society we need to discuss when is the appropriate age of maturity for school pupils to decide on gender identity issues. The issue of male access to female changing areas in schools, gyms, shops, toilets and other public facilities raises further potential concerns. This is a serious matter requiring deep consideration of all the issues involved and the sooner we have this reflection and debate the better."

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What's Happening...

Wicklow Town car boot sale

There will be a car boot sale at East Glendalough school, Wicklow Town, on Saturday 6th July from 9am to 2pm. There will be Tea, coffee and toilet facilities available. Admission €10 for cars, and €15 for vans, otherwise free. Proceeds to Wicklow parish church restoration fund. Enquiries to Peter (087)2706616 or Lesley (087)6091945.

Greystones Yarnbombing

The Irish Countrywomen's Association (Delgany Guild) recently held a Yarnbombing initiative in Greystones over first two weeks in June at the seafront and the Meridian Point Plaza. Although they didn't intend it to be a fundraising event, it was agreed that a charity might benefit from the work. They decided on Children's Mental Health - St Francis Clinic at Temple Street Foundation. "We are overjoyed at the wonderful reception by the people of Greystones and visitors to our Yarnbombing project and look forward to finding out the final figure for charity. We will let you know this as soon as possible."

Swift Awareness Week

Ricky Whelan, BirdWatch Ireland, has organised a series of Swift walks around the country to mark Swift Awareness Week. One of the talks will take place in Tesco Car Park in Arklow, on Wednesday 26th June at 7:30pm. The focus of Swift Awareness Week is to get new audiences out and about to see Swifts and to share with attendees the fascinating life history of the Common Swift whilst raising awareness about the threats they face. For more information contact Swifts@birdwatchireland.ie.

Bray Table Quiz

A table quiz testing knowledge about the town of Bray is being held in the Esplanade Hotel, Bray on Thursday 4th July at 8.00pm. Quizmaster will be Mick 'The Book' Kelleher, with MCs Brian White and Ollie Mahoney. There will be spot prizes on the night, which we hope will be a celebration of Bray, as well as displays and some music! The table quiz is in aid of the refurbishment project at the Holy Redeemer Church and Parish Centre, both well known to so many Bray residents.

Entry fee is 40 for a table of 4. If you are interested in taking part, please email thinkyouknow-bray@gmail.com or text your request to 086 243 0573. Early booking is recommended

Aughrim Active Retirement Summer Fest

The Aughrim Active Retirement (AAR) Summer Fest is on 25th June in The Brockagh Centre. This is a free fun day out. AAR's outing to the Royal Oak Distillery and the Arboretum in Leighlin Bridge on Friday 28th June has been arranged. The bus will depart from Lawless's Hotel at 9.30am. There will be a coffee break on the way to the Distillery. Lunch will be around 2pm.

Delgany Tidy Towns

Do you have 10 minutes to spare over the summer? TidyTowns judging has started and Delgany Tidy Towns are looking for 11 people to volunteer only 10minutes to litter pick the main street in the village. Litter pickers and bags are at the 2minute Street Clean board outside Farrelly's butchers and the group need litter picks done each week, preferably on a Sunday. The dates are June 30th, July 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th, and August 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th. The group said "We just want you to volunteer for one of these dates. Email events@delgany.ie. "For anyone who would like to help but can't commit please go along at any stage to do a litter pick. Equipment is always available outside Farrelly's butchers."



Pictured at the Colour Run in Newcastle recently were Conor and Elliott O'Leary

Bray Area Partnership on the move!

Bray Area Partnership's Head Office is moving at the end of June to a new office space in the Boulevard Centre, Quinnsborough Road, Bray, with an entrance in Galtrim Park.

While it may take a few days for the new space to be set up, the Partnership's other offices - such as the Local Employment Service office at 86 Main Street, Bray, and the SPECS Bray office - are not moving and will be open as usual through the move.

"It's a big move after nearly 20 years in Prince of Wales Terrace," says CEO Peter Brennan, "but we're delighted to have found such a central new premises."

Family Fun and Emergency Services Day

An Emergency Services Day that promises to be fun for all the family will take place on Sunday 30th June from 12pm to 5pm at Eire Og GAA Club in Greystones.

There will be a number of exciting demonstrations on the day and vehicles on display. The first responders will put on a CPR display. The Fire Brigade will take the top of a car off, The coast guard will land Rescue 116, the Gardaí will have a member from little blue hero Charity force will parade Gardaí, the Civil Defence will have their dogs and drones display and the army will also be in attendance. There will not be any available parking at Eire Og on the day but parking will be available at Greystones Rugby Club, Shoreline Leisure Centre and Greystones Tennis Club. For more information contact Greystones Community Policing Unit on (01) 666 5800.

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Summer Stars Reading Adventure

The Summer Stars Reading Adventure will run during the summer in public libraries all over Ireland. Children are invited to register for Summer Stars and be a part of the adventure by reading as many books as they can.

All participants will begin their reading adventure. Wicklow Library has just taken delivery of some wonderful new books for children. From Derek Landy's Skulduggery in Bedlam, David Walliams Fing and of course Dog Man's Adventures. They also have a huge range of non fiction books and super readable Barrington Stoke books.

All children in Wicklow are being encouraged to come down to their local library and sign up as soon as possible to

Freddie White at The Hot Spot

Freddie White has long been synonymous with music of the highest quality. He has been part of the fabric of the live music scene in Ireland since the 1970's. Whether interpreting songs by his favorite writers, such as Randy Newman, Tom Waits, John Hiatt and Guy Clark, or performing his own classy compositions, Freddie's live performances are nothing short of legendary. Freddie plays the Hot Spot Music Club in Greystones on Friday, 28th June.

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FISHERMEN'S BLUES

Saturday afternoon saw local fisherman and members of the Greystones community stage a protest at Greystones Harbour, in response to the ongoing situation of fishermen not being permitted to land their catch there.

The latest action, which involved the blocking off of the harbour, follows a protest staged last month, when three local fishermen landed their catch at the harbour in defiance of the existing by-laws. The fishermen say that it could be the first of many days of such action if the situation is not resolved.

Since then, the fishermen had been continuing to land their catch at the harbour in an act of civil disobedience, however a

timber barricade was erected last week at the entrance of an access point to the north pier, preventing the fishermen from getting to their boats.

A letter was sent to the fishermen on June 18th from Sispar, the concession company responsible for the operation of the harbour and marina, requesting that they cease this activity or further action would be taken, "as there is no formal agreement in order to ensure the safe-

ty of all harbour users".

The fishermen state that "we have tried every option available to come to a workable solution over the last 10 years and have only been met with nonsensical options, ridiculous hoops to jump through and a total restriction on being able to operate our businesses. Our request has always been simple, that we be left alone and provided with the facilities we were promised from the start, to enable us to conduct our business in a

clean and efficient manner. The action on Saturday is in no way an attack on the leisure users of the harbour, in fact we are seeking their support. The sooner we get a resolution to this the sooner the inconveniences are over with."

Speaking to *Wicklow Times* last Thursday, Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District Cllr Tom Fortune said "this entrance to the North pier, which is a public area, is now blocked off. This is stopping fishermen going about their daily work which is grossly unfair. I went and met with people in charge of construction this morning, discussed the situation and requested that the fishermen be facilitated. They say under their construction contract they are entitled to do this. I said that this is wrong and is not going away. I requested that they reconsider what they have done and to facilitate the fishermen. This is going on far too long, and the fishermen are the only people that are being excluded from using the harbour."

"All of the Greystones



Pictured at the Colour Run in Newcastle were Bincia Smith, Joey Vonmedino, Roberta Vonmedino, Juliet Vonmedino, May Reilly, Ariel Smith, and Lora Mae Smith.



Protesters gather at Greystones harbour

councillors are meeting again next week, and we are meeting all of the interested parties. The objective is to get this sorted over the next two weeks so as the fishermen can go about their daily work without intimidation."

Cllr Fortune added "I

will do everything I can as Cathaoirleach to resolve this situation."

When work on the new harbour began in 2008, the local fishing boats were deprived of access to their moorings, but say that they were promised that berths would again be provided

to them once the new harbour opened.

However, the subsequent harbour by-laws drafted by Wicklow County Council officials effectively excluded fishing boats by preventing them landing any catch and imposing high fees. They have been

forced to berth as far away as Dun Laoghaire, motor to their traditional fishing grounds off Bray Head and Greystones to fish, then return to south Dublin to land the catch, which they may then have to drive by land to Greystones or elsewhere to sell.



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Tuesday 18th June was a day of celebration for the staff, parents and students of St. Patrick's Loreto Primary School, Bray. Over 800 members of the school community gathered in the school yard and the local primary school was officially recognised as a Health Promoting School (HPS). It marks the HSE's formal acknowledgement of the school's commitment to a whole school approach to promoting all aspects of health and wellbeing. Pictured are students Ciara Hogan, Kate Donnelly, Emily Ryan, and Orlaith Brady

New school building opened at St Joseph's Arklow

Minister Simon Harris visited St Joseph's National School in Arklow this week to perform the official opening of their new school building.

The new building was originally funded by the Department of Education to replace the prefabs used by the school but following representations about the need for larger capacity, the Department of Education approved almost €3 million in funding for the development of a building with 8 classrooms, 4 resource rooms and the refurbishment of the ASD class spaces. Minister Harris was invited back to the school to officially open the new building. Speaking after the opening, Minister Harris said: "It was really fantastic to be back in Templerainey to officially open the new building and celebrate the completion of a major project for the school. I

visited the school in 2017 and saw for myself the need for the new facilities.

"As a Government Minister and local TD, I am really delighted to see such strong investment in this excellent school.

"I know this has been a long road for some of the very dedicated staff and community here. This project was sanctioned by the Department of Education in 2013 and has moved and adjusted in the intervening years and I think it has been to the benefit of the whole community with extra accommodation now provided and improved spaces for the ASD classes. It is an absolute pleasure to see this new building open and ready to greet local children for the years to come."

"I want to thank principal Máire Daltúin. Her vision and commitment to the students and community of Arklow has ensured this project has been delivered to the highest possible standard. It is also important to acknowledge the role of the Board, staff and parents who were very supportive throughout this project. Schools are made of more than

bricks and mortar; they are they are a essentially a small community of people dedicated to giving children the best possible opportunity in life. It was an honour to be asked to officially open the building and celebrate the culmination of so many people's commitment to the Templerainey community."

Inclusive Greystones Playground used as model for Community Participation Legislation

Social Democrats Cllr. Jennifer Whitmore has welcomed the use of the new Greystones playground as the model for inclusivity in an upcoming 'Community Participation' Bill to be introduced in the Seanad shortly by Ind. Senator John Dolan.

According to the National Disability Authority in order for a playground to be considered 'inclusive' it must be designed using the principles of universal design, where children with all abilities can play together and be able to play with equipment which is developmentally appropriate for children with and without disabilities.

Cllr Whitmore says "I'm delighted that the new Greystones playground is being cited as an example of what an inclusive playground looks like and how it has benefited many children with disabilities since it first opened. It shows that other communities can replicate this model for the benefit of so many other children who don't currently have access to inclusive recreational spaces. When we designed the playground

in Greystones, the most important principle we applied was that children can play side-by-side - this is what I believe truly makes for an inclusive playground.

"While we are lucky to have such a wonderful facility here in Greystones, inclusive playgrounds are not common in other parts of Ireland. I've heard of people traveling long distances to use our playground just so they can see their able-bodied child play alongside their sibling with a disability. This should not be the case in 2019. We should be progressing more on the issue of inclusivity across all our local facilities and recreational spaces. Everyone benefits when a community is more inclusive.

"I support Senator Dolan's initiative and the many people and

groups who have worked alongside him to push for greater community participation for all.

"The Community Participation Bill would go a long way as it would require local authorities not only to apply the principles of universal design to build more inclusive playgrounds, it would require local authorities to establish accessible changing facilities, private bus operators licenced by the state to meet accessibility standards as well as ensuring that personal advocates supporting people with disabilities have more statutory powers.

"I hope to see this legislation pass the Seanad and the Dáil and for more initiatives like our inclusive playground in Greystones to be replicated across the country" concluded Whitmore.

Teen acting for camera

Award-winning film and theatre company Burning House Productions presents this workshop for teenagers on acting for the camera.

Participants will have a chance to work with award-winning actors and directors and learn how to act on camera. It will be held on July 3rd, 4th and 5th in the Whale Theatre in Greystones, from 10:30am to 1pm each day. The cost is €89. Contact 087 353 7095 or email contactburninghouse@gmail.com, or see burninghouse.ie

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Minister Simon Harris with pupils of St Joseph's National School at the opening of their new school building

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Pictured at the Colour Run in Newcastle last week was Jessica O'Neill

HSE nursing homes in Wicklow paid 58% more than private and voluntary counterparts

HSE nursing homes in Co Wicklow are being paid 58% more to provide care per person than their private and voluntary counterparts, new figures published by the HSE reveal.

The HSE released the fees payable to its nursing homes under the Fair Deal for January 2019 on 5th June. This followed a 15-month delay in publishing its fees (last published March 2018).

Private and voluntary nursing homes are required to 'negotiate' the fees payable to them under the Fair Deal scheme with the NTPF, acting on behalf of the State. However, the fees payable to HSE nursing homes are not subject to negotiation or oversight, with the HSE being the budget-holder and payee.

The released fees inform the average fee payable to the two HSE nursing homes in Co Wicklow - St. Colman's Hospital in Rathdrum and Baltinglass District Hospital - is €1,657 per person, per week, as of January 2019.

The average fee payable per person to the 20 private and voluntary nursing homes operating within the county for same month was €1,051 per

person, per week. This reveals a 58% differential in the average fees payable in respect of residents between HSE nursing homes in County Wicklow and private and voluntary counterparts.

Nationally, HSE nursing home fees are paid an average 66% above those payable in respect of residents in private and voluntary nursing homes. Over the 15-month period since the HSE fees were last published in March 2018, the national chasm has increased from an average 60% to 66%.

Tadhg Daly, NHI CEO said: "The Fair Deal budget is coming under severe pressure and there have been reports older people requiring access to nursing home care will have their funding support delayed as the HSE grapples with the financial pressures. Yet across Ireland it is paying its own nursing homes twice the fees payable to private and voluntary nursing homes that are operating alongside them. The HSE

continues to utilise the 1 billion Fair Deal budget to increase payments to its nursing homes minus accountability.

"Publication by the HSE of its fees highlights the glaring discrimination perpetuated by the State in nursing home care. It is unacceptable private and voluntary nursing homes, which are the lead providers of nursing home care, are forced to provide care for fees that are a fraction of those payable to HSE counterparts. Late last year the Oireachtas Public Accounts Committee expressed strong concerns regarding the value provided by the HSE in its utilisation of the Fair Deal budget. Yet instead of the gross disparity being addressed, State discrimination in the operation of the scheme is growing.

"The State, through the NTPF, is not recognising the true costs of nursing home care when engaging with private and voluntary operators. Yet through the HSE it is acting with

impunity in paying its nursing homes fees that are not subject to negotiation or scrutiny. People requiring nursing home care deserve greater equality and fairness from the State."

Mr Daly reiterated the consistent call by Nursing Homes Ireland for the review of the Fair Deal pricing mechanism, being undertaken by the NTPF and now two-years past its deadline for completion (July 2017), to be published with immediacy. "Four years ago the review of Fair Deal identified issues with the fees payable for the provision of nursing home care and called for a review in how the pricing mechanism is operating. The NTPF has since stalled this vital body of work. The review must be completed and published with immediacy to facilitate imperative discussion regarding how we fund care for people requiring nursing home care."

New Bray Chamber President

Ruth Donnelly has been elected as the 32nd President of Bray & District Chamber, succeeding outgoing president Pat O'Suilleabhain.

The official chain of office was handed over to Ruth at the Annual General Meeting of Bray Chamber held on Thursday 13th June in Chamber house. Sarah Finnegan was elected incoming Vice

President of the Chamber. Other board positions elected on the night were, Honorary Solicitor Joe Maguire, Hon PRO Sharon Bolger, Hon Treasurer Pat O'Suilleabhain,

Hon Secretary Kieran Ward. As there were more people interested in coming onto the Executive Council than the 12 seats, there was an election held on the



Ruth Donnelly

night. The following were deemed elected onto the Executive Council for the coming year: Brendan Duggan, David Tew, Eric Ryan, Eugene Finnegan, Jonathan Donnelly, Karl Kelly, Keira Robinson, Malachai Duddy, Mary Fogarty, Mary Savage, Mick Glynn, Wayne O'Connor.

On her election, Ruth encouraged all members to get involved in the Chamber and to join one of the groups or sub committees.

The next event for the Chamber will be the Golf Outing on 30th August in Bray Golf Club. Please contact the Chamber for more information.

O'Connor seeks county-wide ban on smoky coal

Independent Councillor Rory O'Connor has put down a motion to ban the sale, distribution and burning of smoky coal in Wicklow.

The Bray Municipal District councillor explained that the motion comes in the absence of Government action on the matter.

Currently there are five designated smoke-free urban areas in Co. Wicklow; Bray, Arklow, Greystones/Delgany, Wicklow Town and Rathnew. Only smoke-free products can be sold in these areas. The Council states that "air quality has vastly improved in these areas since the introduction of the ban, with a significant reduction in smog and sulphur dioxide since the 1980s."

Cllr O'Connor's motion calls on the executive of the Council to introduce and enforce a 'county-wide ban' on the sale and use of smoky fuels to take effect on November 2019, and to provide an information campaign to consumers in Wicklow on the dangers of smoky coal.

Cllr O'Connor says the Council will be required to take action by notifying all retailers and wholesalers about the decision of the county-wide ban.

If passed, the Council will formally write to the Taoiseach, Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment and all Wicklow Oireachtas members informing them of the decision and urging them to introduce the nationwide ban without delay, as committed to by this Government and previous Ministers. The motion also seeks a formal meeting with Wicklow TD and Minister for Health Simon Harris to allow members discuss the need for his support for this measure and to ensure that the health implications are understood.

Cllr O'Connor explains that the issue has been left to the discretion of local authorities following the failure of the Fine Gael/Labour government to proceed with a nationwide ban back in 2015, and subsequently the commitment made by former Minister Denis Naughten to have the ban introduced by 2019.

However, O'Connor says that Wicklow County Council can make an order to ban the burning of a substance under provisions of the Air Pollution Act 1987.

Councillor O'Connor said: "Air quality in Wicklow is good and we're lucky to live in such a wonderful county. However, we need to take steps at grassroots level to start changing the way we live and work to ensure a sustainable pathway for future generations is there.

"Wicklow has 10,344 asthma sufferers over the age of 18 and we need to make sure that clean air is available to all of them. Though this motion isn't the answer to solving all our environmental problems, it's our way of telling the Government that this should be a major priority for them, and they need to listen up and take action.



Cllr Rory O'Connor

tackle climate change in our community and protecting Wicklow's biodiversity. The upcoming budget is an exciting opportunity to enact real change and I look forward to working with my Council colleagues to do this."

Councillor Rory O'Connor is the youngest public representative in Wicklow at the age of 20 after being elected at the 2019 local election for Bray West. Rory was part of the Bray 'Strike for Climate' event in March which saw over 100 students leave their class and take part in a demonstration to demand action to prevent further global warming and climate change.



Midsummer Garden Visit

Sunday 30th June, 2pm to 5pm
In aid of Holy Redeemer Refurbishment Project

Una Whelan's
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(4th House on left after Car Park)

Afternoon Tea ————— Plant Sale
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Fixtures Secretary Liam Kilbride presents Therese and Claire Behan with the Hall of Fame Award on behalf of the late Johnny Behan of Carnew AFC at the Wicklow & District Football League Tommy Earls Awards in the Parkview Hotel, Newtown.

Kiltegan 'Do Not Consume' notice remains in place

The Do Not Consume Notice for customers on the Kiltegan Water Supply Scheme due to elevated nitrate levels in the water supply remains in place until further notice.

Irish Water, in partnership with Wicklow County Council, are working to resolve this issue as soon as possible and safeguard the water supply.

The company said "We acknowledge the impact and inconvenience caused by this DNC notice to homes and businesses in the Kiltegan area. We wish to thank the community for their ongoing patience and cooperation while we work to resolve this issue. Irish Water's priority is the provision of safe, clean drinking water and safeguarding that water supply for the future is a vital focus.

"Works to install a nitrate removal plant in Kiltegan are ongoing on

site. The plant is currently in the process of being commissioned. We expect this process to take approximately four weeks. Following the successful commissioning of the plant, we will then liaise with the HSE with a view to lifting the Do Not Consume Notice."

Irish Water is providing bottled water which is currently available from 9am to 7pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 1pm on weekends beside Katie Lowes Pub.

This is not a Boil Water Notice, so water is not safe to consume even if boiled.

Boiling the water will not reduce nitrate levels and is therefore not a suitable measure to make

the water safe to consume. It is especially important that mains drinking water is not given to bottle fed infants.

This notice does not apply to any other areas or water schemes in County Wicklow.

This water should not be used for: Drinking; Drinks made with water; Food preparation, washing or cooking of food; Brushing of teeth; Making of ice.

In particular, children under 12 months old should not drink this water. This water should not be used for making up infant formula for bottle fed infants. An alternative source of water should be used. Bottled

water can also be used to make up infant formula. All bottled water, with the exception of natural mineral water, is regulated to the same standard as drinking water. It is best not to use bottled water labelled as 'Natural Mineral Water' as it can have high levels of sodium (salt) and other minerals, although it rarely does. 'Natural Mineral Water' can be used if no other water is available, for as short a time as possible, as it is important to keep babies hydrated

If bottled water is used to make up infant formula it should be boiled once (rolling boil for 1 minute), and cooled in the normal way. Ready-to-use formula that does not need added water can also be used. Domestic water filters will not render water safe to drink. Caution should be taken when bathing infants to ensure that they do not swallow the bathing water. Discard ice cubes in fridges and freezers and filtered water in fridges.

The water can be used for personal hygiene, bathing, flushing toilets, laundry and washing of utensils

Updates will be available on the Water Supply Updates section, on Twitter @IWCare and via the customer care helpline, open 24/7 on 1850 278 278.

GREEN LIGHT FOR GREENWAY IN BLESSINGTON

Major funding of €5 million for the development of the West Wicklow Greenway was announced last week.

Speaking last week, Minister Simon Harris said "I am delighted to announce this evening that I have now received confirmation of funding for the Blessington Looped Greenway development. This significant Government funding will transform tourism for West Wicklow and provide multi-million euro investment in greenway infrastructure.

"We know how greenways in other parts of the country have transformed a region in terms of tourists and all the economic benefits of such and I have no doubt this will do the same for Blessington and for County Wicklow. This is a massive economic and social boast for our county. Having organised and chaired many roundtable meetings with the key stakeholders 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."

Fianna Fáil TD Pat Casey and West Wicklow

Fianna Fail councillors Patsy Glennon and John Mullen also welcomed the funding.

Deputy Casey said "This is great news for the local Greenway Committee in Blessington who have worked so hard over many years to get this project across the line. I am delighted to have worked with them since the start of this project with County Wicklow Partnership nearly 10 years ago. The Greenway which will surround the Blessington lakes will bring thousands of visitors and will be the beginning of a new era for outdoor recreational tourism in West Wicklow. Wicklow is well known to be the centre of outdoor recreation in Ireland with the largest National Park and the Wicklow mountains representing a key pillar of our economic portfolio. Outdoor recreational tourism in Wicklow is a multi-million euro industry that is county wide and needs significant support to grow and enhance our potential."

Cllr Glennon stated "The Blessington Greenway project is a game changer for tourism

in West Wicklow and finally the hard working committee have achieved the goal they worked so hard for. Only 30 minutes from Dublin, this will be very welcome for the local business community in the Blessington, Hollywood and Vallemount areas."

Cllr Mullen added "The Blessington Greenway is only the beginning for the development of the entire West Wicklow region as a destination of choice for outdoor recreational tourism. Rural Wicklow has a proven track record in outdoor recreation and it is essential that all communities benefit from this sustainable economic pillars. The work of the Blessington team also proves that community led development works and works well and this should be the model used for future projects."

Stephen Donnelly TD said "It's simply fantastic to hear that €5million has been allocated for the extension of the Greenway, allowing for 43km of walking and cycling trails around the beautiful Blessington Lakes. Wicklow is a stunning county with so much

to offer and it's brilliant to see its potential being realized this way. I'm so proud to have helped along in any way I could. Greenways are good for the environment by encouraging us to get out of our cars, good for tourists who get to see more of our natural landscape up close, and good for locals, with the promise of hundreds of jobs and money from visitors being spent in our community. This is genuinely a win-win situation", concluded Donnelly.

Speaking on the announcement Minister Andrew Doyle said "this is a huge boost for the West Wicklow area. I have been working alongside the Blessington and District Forum for a number of years on this project and have seen first-hand the huge dedication given to this project from the local community in Blessington. I was delighted to welcome Minister of State for Tourism and Sport Brendan Griffin to Blessington Greenway in October 2017 to show him first-hand the unique beauty of the lakes."

Delays for St. David's school extension

New information released to Stephen Donnelly TD has led to serious concerns about the start date for a long-overdue extension to St David's secondary school in Greystones.

The school was promised that work would start next month after years battling red tape, but the Fianna Fáil Health spokesperson has warned that building may be delayed yet again.

Deputy Donnelly explained, "I've been working closely with the school for years and I was very disheartened when I got my latest piece of correspondence from the Minister for Education.

"I submitted a Parliamentary Question asking straight out if work on the extension would begin in July and the answer I got back was far from satisfactory. It neglected to give any specific start date and instead focused on the fact that the project is still at 'stage 2B' (detailed design) - a limbo that schools all over Ireland have been sent to."

The Minister told Deputy Donnelly that the project "is at an advanced stage of architectural planning, which includes the applications for Planning Permission, Fire Cert and Disability Access Cert and the preparation of tender documents. All statutory approvals have been secured. The Design Team is currently in the process of completing the Stage 2(b) report which is expected to be submitted shortly through the Board of Management to the Department for review. The completion of Stage 2b has taken longer than anticipated and the Department awaits completion in order to move forward."

Deputy Donnelly went on to say "It confirms that the pre-qualification phase hasn't started, which means the Department hasn't started identifying companies to bid for the work. And this of course this means that the tender process hasn't started either.

"It's just so disappointing, but not all that surprising. It's not the first time that the Minister for Education has disappointed the pupils and parents of St David's. He cancelled a school visit at the last minute recently, despite big efforts to prepare a warm welcome.

"Greystones has a chronic shortage of secondary school places, and one of the best ways to tackle the problem is by adding extra space to our existing schools. The St. David's Principal Mary O'Doherty and her team have done incredible work over the years securing permission for an extension, so it's an insult to every student, every parent and every member of staff that it still hasn't started. I will continue to work with St David's to get this extension built as soon as possible", concluded Deputy Donnelly.

The Minister for Education also informed Deputy Donnelly that "in order to expedite the project the Department has authorised the school and its design team to commence the pre-qualification of contractors' process. This will allow the pre-qualification process to run in parallel with the receipt, review and approval of the Stage 2(b) report. Upon receipt, review and approval of the Stage 2(b) report and completion of the pre-qualification process this project will then be progressed to tender stage."

Kaleidoscope Music Festival

Kaleidoscope (Russborough House - 28th-30th June), is Ireland's first music and arts camping festival for families and friends set on the grounds of Russborough House near Blessington. Kaleidoscope is three days of high energy, full colour, over 15 stages, designed to entice and enthrall all, from babes in arms to those eligible for a bus pass.

The Hardy Annuals Walk

This sponsored challenge walk for the over seventies in Glendalough takes place on Thursday 26th September. A choice of distances is available. All proceeds go to Partnership America Latina. Visit www.palcharityprojects.ie for more details. To register email Tom Milligan at hardyannuals@gmail.com.

Wicklow winners announced at SFI Discover Primary Science and Maths Awards

Twenty Wicklow primary schools have received a Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Discover Primary Science and Maths Award (DPSM). The programme aims to increase interest in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) among primary school students and teachers.

The Awards recognise the achievements of children and teachers in the application of STEM in their curriculum. This includes keeping a log of STEM activities they have undertaken throughout the school year such as classroom investigations and projects, participating in STEM-related field trips and hosting a scientist or engineer speaker visit.

The recipient schools from Wicklow are: Ravenswell Primary School (Badge of Excellence for STEM Awareness); Delgany National School; Gaelscoil Chill Mhantáin; Gaelscoil na gCloch Liath; Greystones Community National School; Greystones Educate Together National School; Kilbride National School; Kilcoole Primary School; Marino School; Momeystown National School; Nun's Cross National School; Scoil Náisiúnta Muire; Sacred Heart National School; Aughrim; St. School (Badge of Excellence for STEM

Senior School; St. Laurences National School; St. Peter's Primary School; Wicklow Educate Together National School; Scoil Chaoimhín Naofa; All Saints National School.

The DPSM Awards programme aims to increase interest in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) among primary school students and teachers. The goal is to introduce primary school students to science in a practical, hands-on, enjoyable and interactive way. Since 2010 the programme has been run in conjunction with the European Space Education Resource Office (ESERO) Ireland which uses space to inspire and engage young people in science and technology in the world around them.

Commenting on the

SFI DPSM Awards, Dr Ruth Freeman, Director of Science for Society at Science Foundation Ireland, said: "Science Foundation Ireland is committed to making STEM accessible to all and supporting our young people to embrace the 21st century skills needed for their futures. This means that we must continue working to break down any barriers to engaging young people in STEM and nurture their ability to be creative, critical thinkers. The DPSM Awards are a perfect way to engage students in a meaningful and enjoyable way with science. It is extremely positive to see so many primary schools in Wicklow taking part and I want to thank all of the teachers involved for their commitment to STEM."



Emma Fanning, Brand Ambassador and Training and Livestock Manager at Maxi Zoo, with Ciarán O'Neill, Managing Director of Maxi Zoo Ireland following their recent survey on the public's perception, behaviour and attitudes towards dog fouling.

Survey finds 1 in 10 dog owners feel embarrassed to pick up dog poop

Ireland is currently facing a serious dog fouling issue with the number of complaints to Local Authorities on the rise. It is a public health concern and nuisance that is increasingly being discussed as one of the major urban issues in Ireland. In fact, during the recent local elections, one of the biggest complaints that many candidates heard on the doorsteps was the issue of dog fouling - and were asked if elected what would the candidates do about it.

In light of this Maxi Zoo commissioned a survey to look into dog owners attitudes and behaviours on the subject of dog fouling. Interestingly, with over 2,000 responses, the survey found that 93% of dog owners believe that it is socially unacceptable to leave dog poop on the ground, however one in 10 of those asked felt embarrassed when they had to pick up their dog's poop in public.

Managing Director of Maxi Zoo, Ciarán O'Neill stated "For the most part, the survey results are positive - which is great to see that the majority of dog owners are responsible for their pets. However, we realise there is still a wider issue which needs to be addressed to help alleviate the stigma attached to picking up dog poop, so that we can help combat this problem in our country."

He continued "We feel strongly about creating positive change and the issue of dog fouling is something we need to look at - changing the perceptions and behaviours of dog owners is the first starting point and we hope to encourage dog owners to ensure they carry dog poop bags at all times when walking their dogs."

Ciarán added "99% of the Maxi Zoo team are pet owners and together, we are going to look at ways that we can help with this issue in Ireland. In our 20 stores we are talking to thousands of pet owners every day of the week, offering advice and help - we genuinely love animals as much as our customers do, so it's important that we play

our part too." While the survey showed that the majority of respondents 92% were responsible enough to bring poop bags with them while walking their dogs, 1% of those asked admitted that they never pick up their dogs poop! Educating this small percentage of people could

be the turning point in eradicating this issue in Ireland. Emma Fanning, Brand Ambassador and Training and Livestock Manager at Maxi Zoo, regularly runs information days at Maxi Zoo stores throughout Ireland and also conducts "Responsible Pet Ownership" school talks.

Emma believes that "Education is key when changing public behaviour. We enjoy interacting with our customers and the wider community on how best to care for their pet. Picking up your dog's poop is an essential part of being a responsible dog owner."

Delgany burial ground talks

During the summer the Old Burial Ground gates will be open from 10am to 8pm.

All are welcome to come in and enjoy the local heritage. Lailli DeBuitlear will be giving tours and talks in the Old Burial Ground for National Heritage Week in August on the following dates: 18th August, 12pm - 1:30pm, 22nd August, 11:30am - 1:30pm, 24th August, 11:30am - 1:30pm.




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Public Information Notice: Low-flying Aircraft

As part of the Tellus Survey, an aircraft will fly at a low level of 60 m over rural areas and 240 m over urban areas collecting geological information. The survey commenced in mid June 2019 and will continue into late autumn, weather permitting. The sound of the plane is similar to that of a passing lorry but may possibly startle sensitive livestock, such as horses.

Where is the survey happening?
Across south eastern counties including: Carlow, Wexford, Wicklow, south Kildare, south east Kilkenny and Waterford (the survey area is shown on the map on the right).





Who is carrying out the survey?
Sander Geophysics Ltd, is carrying out the survey on behalf of Geological Survey Ireland. It's funded by the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment.

Why is the survey necessary?
The information will allow us to make new geological maps, and help us to manage and make the best use of Ireland's environmental, agricultural and natural resources. The data gathered by the survey will be freely available to all.

Who should I contact?
If you have concerns about sensitive livestock in the areas we will fly over, please contact us on 1800 45 55 65.

For more information, contact us:
Geological Survey Ireland, Beggars Bush, Haddington Road, Dublin D04 K7X4, Ireland.
Suirbhéireacht Gheolaíochta Éireann, Tor an Bhacaigh, Baile Átha Cliath D04 K7X4, Éire.
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Sr Orla Treacy from Bray (far right), received the Societal Impact award at the DCU Alumni Awards. She is pictured with the other award winners; Shay Walsh, former Taoiseach Enda Kenny, and Lindsay Peat

Sr. Orla Treacy receives DCU Alumni Award

The annual DCU Alumni Awards took place on Friday, 14th June, at the Helix on DCU's Glasnevin campus. The awards for Outstanding Achievement were presented and the 2018 Alumni Wall Awardees were unveiled.

Bray's Sr. Orla Treacy was among the awardees, recognised for her work in South Sudan, where she set up a girls boarding school outside the town Rumbek. For this she received the 'Societal Impact' award.

The awards honour an extended list of alumni who, through their exceptional ability and leadership, have achieved excellence in their chosen fields. Their accomplishments are a source of great pride to DCU and an inspiration to present and future generations of DCU students.

Prof. Brian MacCraith, the President of DCU, said: "DCU sets out to develop excellent graduates who can make a positive impact on the world and transform people's lives in many different ways. Each year we are delighted to recognise successful alumni who have done just that. It is with great delight that we honour our alumni for their outstanding achievements, and we take pride in the role that DCU has played in their lives."

Each of DCU's five faculties honoured two successful alumni, with an inaugural award honouring a DCU Connected graduate on the University's Alumni Wall.

These included Met Éireann Meteorologist Joanna Donnelly, from the Faculty of Science and Health, and CEO and Managing Partner at KPMG, Seamus Hand who studied at DCU Business School. Alumni Wall awardees have their photographs and biographies placed on a special wall in both the O'Reilly and Cregan libraries in DCU.



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En Garde!

Greystones fencing club win medals in competitive debut

The En Garde Fencing Club had a fantastic debut at the recent Youth Irish Open. The Greystones-based club, which has only been running for one year, saw all three of their U10 team members finish in the medals.

Competing in his first competition Elliot Wright was crowned champion while his clubmates Levi Griffin English and Emer Rowe both won bronze medals. In the U12 category Sophie Galligan and Kim Colgan, showed great skill during the pool stages.

The tournament, which was held in Dalkey, was the first time the En Garde Fencing Club had entered a competition.

Head coach, David Losonczi, who is a Hungarian fencing international, said he was absolutely thrilled with the performance of his fencers.

"The guys did incredibly well for their first ever tournament but the results are not what matter," he said. "The important thing is they had fun and now have an idea what fencing is really about."

The club trains in the Greystones Educate Together school on Wednesdays from 5pm to 6.30pm. A second group trains in Roundwood on Mondays between 5.15pm and 6.15pm.

New members are always welcome. The club caters for children between seven and 13-year-old.

In September there are plans to start an adult class in Shoreline in Greystones.

Coach Piri Keresztes,

who also runs Angels Gymnastics, is currently working on setting up a wheelchair fencing class later this year.



Pictured are (Back row): David Losonczi, Elliot Wright, Levi Griffin, Emer Rowe, and Piroska Keresztes, and (front row); Kim Colgan, Robyn Young, Sophie and Galligan, of En Garde Fencing club

Dunlavin student wins DCU Sports Scholarship for sporting excellence

Casey O'Brien, a former pupil of St. Kevin's Community College Dunlavin, and first year student in Intellectual Disability Nursing at DCU, was presented with the DCU Sports Scholarship in recognition of her contribution to rugby at the University by the President of DCU, Professor Brian MacCraith.

Speaking at this year's Sports Scholarships, the President of DCU Professor Brian MacCraith addressed the attendees "The awarding of these scholarships is a recognition that DCU's high-performance athletes need support in order to successfully balance the demands of their sporting and academic commitments. The award takes into account not just their individual sporting achievements. It also recognises the valuable contribution they make to the DCU community through their activities with our sports clubs, such as coaching and mentoring fellow students."

Sport Scholarships were introduced in DCU in 1996 in the form of GAA sport scholarships. In recent years, the pro-

gramme has expanded greatly and students have been awarded scholarships across a range of sports, including Athletics, Basketball, Boxing, Camogie, Canoe, Gaelic Football, Golf, Handball, Hockey, Hurling, Rugby, Rowing, Sailing, Soccer and Tennis. DCU is also committed to the development of sporting excellence amongst students with a disability.

Sport Scholarships are offered to eligible students that have met the DCU admission requirements through the CAO system and are enrolled on a programme of academic study at DCU. The offer of a Sport Scholarship award does not include any special reductions in entry criteria or the offer of an academic place at DCU.



Casey O'Brien with DCU President Brian MacCraith



SUMMER CAR SERVICING

The importance of having your car in good working order is often overlooked at this time of year, perhaps when it is needed most. Regular servicing of your vehicle will not only improve its reliability, safety and environmental performance but also significantly protect its re-sale or trade-in value.

Research has shown however, that many motorists rely purely on the biannual NCT to determine their car's road worthiness, which is both a false economy and potentially dangerous. At the same time, if you're thinking of lifting the bonnet for a spot of DIY servicing - don't! Modern vehicles are increasingly complex with sophisticated engine management and other electronic systems.

It is important to ensure that your car is maintained by qualified professionals. Check the list below, which details handy 'top tips' that will make a summer's hassle free motoring



more likely.

A vehicle's service history can not only boost its value but also make the difference between a desirable and completely unwanted car. The

absence of a service history may knock €1,000 or more off a car's value or, even worse, may simply make the vehicle unwanted.

A pre-holiday ser-

vice problems and/or any recent work carried out.

* Check what is included within the service - ask to see a copy of the service schedule for your vehicle types.

* Check the breakdown of costs, including all parts, consumables, labour and VAT - you should know exactly what you are paying for.

* Insist that any additional work is undertaken without your express permission. If recommended, this should be quoted against, not estimated. Ask for any replaced parts to be retained for your inspection upon collection.

* Ensure that you receive a detailed itemized report with a verbal explanation of the work undertaken and/or recommended. Ask about the garage's quality control checks and make sure your service book is stamped.

* Ensure that the name of the technician that works on your car is detailed on your invoice. Ask to speak to him or her specifically if you have any concerns or require necessary explanations.

* Ensure that you receive a guarantee. Make sure you know what it covers, check the period of validity and identify the complaints procedure, should a query arise.

Wherever you plan to travel to whether home or abroad, you won't be going anywhere if you don't have a healthy vehicle to get you there.

With holiday fun planned, car maintenance is probably the furthest thing from your mind, but a mechanical problem can quickly and easily turn an otherwise fun day into a nightmare, especially if you're far from home.

If your car is due for a tune-up, bring it in to your mechanic before you depart for any destination.

Typically, a pre-summer tune-up consist of the following: Inspect the battery to make sure all connections are tight and it can carry a charge. Oil change and air filter replacement. Clean



fuel injectors and if necessary, change the fuel filter. Change or adjust the spark plug. Inspect the distribu-

tion. Inspect the brakes and exhaust system. Inspect the cooling system and radiator.

Also, check and replace fluids, check and flush hoses, check belts for cracking and remove winter tyres.



vice is money well spent especially if any reasonably long journey or overseas trips are in the offing.

Top Ten Tips on Summer Servicing

* Check if the garage employs qualified mechanics, and can show that technicians are suitably qualified and/or is registered by the SIMI or equal.

* When at the premises, check for training certificates on display. If in any doubt, ask.

* Ensure that the garage is familiar with your car's make and model.

* Prior to booking your car in, consider how it's been running. Be honest - inform the service staff of any



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Young people from Rathdrum and staff of the Inspire Youth Centre are pictured at the launch of the Rathdrum Youth Service 'Inspire Youth Centre' on the main street

NEW MINERS' WAY TRAIL LAUNCHED

A great day of celebration was attended by over a hundred people recently at the launch of the new Miners' Way Trail in the Wicklow uplands. This 20km linear way marked trail traverses the three valleys of Glendasan, Glendalough and Glenmalure with a focus on the mining heritage in these areas.

The initiative was spearheaded jointly by two local voluntary groups, the Glens of Lead group and the Glenmalure PURE Mile group, and received funding from the Dept of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht's Rural Recreation Fund.

However, the much wider collaboration behind the project was reflected in the wide variety of bodies that were represented at the event which included County Wicklow Partnership, Wicklow Mountains National Parks, Coillte, PURE Project, Wicklow County Council, Wicklow Uplands Council and Mountaineering Ireland.

Trail Head Information Panels were unveiled and ribbons were cut at Glendasan and Glenmalure by Minister Andrew Doyle, Deputy Pat Casey and former miners Robert Carter, John Byrne and Seán O'Brien.

Proceedings at both ends of the trail included poetry recitals by local poet Jane Clarke with her poem Fox Rock Tunnel, dedicated to Robert Carter, and pupils from Scoil Chaoimhín Naofa

who recited Fiddlers' Row, written by the late Charlie McCoy, local poet and former resident of Glendasan.

Many of the children had family connections to the miners mentioned in the poem. Robert Carter gave a short history of mining in the area and spoke poignantly about his experience working underground and recalled the tragic accident which killed his friend and colleague James Mernagh. A minute's silence was observed in memory of all those who lost their lives in the mines and the trail was blessed at both ends by clergymen Fr. Oliver Crotty, Fr. Arokiasamy and Revd. Brian O'Reilly.

The celebration which had begun at the Start/Finish point in Glendasan, then moved to the Start/Finish point at Baravore in Glenmalure where Rural Recreation Officer Bryan Fennell gave a short overview of the project. Minister Andrew Doyle, when unveiling the Miners' Way map and sign with Deputy Pat Casey, T.D. congratulated all bodies involved for working together so well to achieve great

things for these valleys.

Coillte Area Manager, Peter McGloin unveiled the new Coillte sign at Baravore relating to the Baravore Mining Looped Trail. This is the shorter mining trail in Baravore which was opened in 2017. It begins at the footbridge where the Miners' Way ends and follows the old mining trail through Coillte lands past the Crusher house.

Wicklow County Council Heritage Officer Deirdre Burns spoke of the importance of the project and commended all involved and local historian Carmel O'Toole gave a flavour of the mining heritage of her native valley and recited Sean Healy's poem, A Hundred Lights.

The hundred or more people present then walked the first few metres of the trail along the footbridge which crosses the Avonbeg River, led by local piper, James Byrne. Local hill walking enthusiasts, Jim Devitt, Winnie O'Neill and her niece Niamh Byrne walked this new route on the day and were greeted with rapturous applause when they arrived in Baravore just in

time for the unveiling ceremony.

The celebration concluded with welcome refreshments back at the warm and friendly Glenmalure Lodge with more poetry readings and traditional music provided by Eugene Fitzpatrick and friends. A framed copy of the Miners' Way leaflet was presented to Robert Carter in recognition of his life-long dedication to preserving and promoting the mining heritage of the Wicklow Mountains.

The Miners' Way Information Leaflet was officially launched by Jim Byrne, native of Bolenaskea, Glenmalure, who was deputising on behalf of Councillor Pat Kennedy. This attractive and informative leaflet shows a clear map of the trail together with an account of the mining history and local amenities in each of the three valleys. It is available free of charge at Glendalough Visitors' Centre and in tourist offices and local hotels and B&Bs in Glenmalure and Glendalough.

Delgany and District Horticultural Society Rose Show

The Delgany and District Horticultural Society Rose Show takes place in St. Patrick's National School, Greystones from 3pm to 5pm on 29th June. This promises to be a wonderful event with lots of roses and flowers. There will be served during the show. Plants also for sale. New Members and Exhibitors are very welcome.

All exhibits must be staged before 11.30 am on the day of the show. Entries must be advised to the Show Secretary in advance.

Please email ddhs.showentries@gmail.com. Details at www.DelganyDHS.com and on Facebook.

Dunlavin woman celebrates her 100th Birthday

A great night was held in the Keadeen Hotel, Newbridge on Saturday 8th June to celebrate Nan Ward's 100th Birthday.

Nan Ward (nee Whelan) was born on the 9th June 1919. She is originally from Calverstown and is the daughter of Elizabeth and Christopher Whelan and one of eight children. She spent her school years in Balymount school.

At the age of 15 she went to work in Freemans, Calverstown as a Housekeeper. She worked there for many years before working in Byrnes Hotel, Kilcullen, later known as the Hideout.

At 23 years old she met Tom Ward. They married shortly afterwards and moved to Usk, Dunlavin where she changed her career to farming. They had 5 children, 2

boys and 3 girls. Mary, Elizabeth, Phil, Tom and Kevin who unfortunately died at the age of 3 months.

Her Husband Tom passed away in 1980.

Nan has always enjoyed life to the full. Her amazing sense of humour, wit and positivity makes her a great friend and neighbour and she is well loved by all those known to her and those who meet her. She has a great love of music and style and is never far from a good party or celebration.

Nan is still very active. She looks forward to Thursday's where she spends the day at the Day Care Centre in Newbridge, the annual Kilcullen Christmas Party and many a Prayer meeting.

Nan would like to thank everyone for their well wishes, cards and gifts over the past week and she looks forward to many more birthdays to come!



Pictured are Cllr Ivan Keatley, Nan Ward, and TD Martin Heydon



Pictured are (Back row) Tina Barrett, Sharon Barrett, Deirdre Barrett and (Front row) - Jackie Barrett, Nan Ward, and Paula Barrett

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Tuesday 18th June was a day of celebration for the staff, parents and students of St. Patrick's Loreto Primary School, Bray as the school was officially recognised as a Health Promoting School (HPS). It marks the HSE's formal acknowledgement of the school's commitment to a whole school approach to promoting all aspects of health and wellbeing. The school is particularly proud of the 300+ children who participated in the 100K Challenge over the course of the year. The final lap was run as part of the Celebration Day with the whole school supporting and cheering on the runners.

'Throw teaching principals a lifeline'

Stephen Donnelly TD has warned that teaching principals are in danger of drowning in paperwork.

The Fianna Fáil Health spokesperson met with a group of Wicklow members of the National Principals' Forum recently and they explained that they need extra time to deal with the pressures of administration work.

Deputy Donnelly commented, "Teaching Principals are currently managing to juggle an impossible workload which involves balancing full-time teaching roles with full-time managerial roles. But the truth is there are only 24 hours in a day and there's a severe risk of seeing incredibly dedicated and professional leaders burn out."

"In Wicklow there are currently 86 primary schools and of that total there are 36 principals who also hold teaching positions. It's generally



Stephen Donnelly TD

believed that teaching principals are used only in smaller schools where the admin work is limited. However, teachers tell me that even when pupil numbers are low, staff numbers can be high because of a reliance on part-time workers. What people forget is that the principal is also responsible for all the HR needs of each staff member from the cleaner to the school secretary.

"We already know that nationally over 84 per cent of teaching principals have considered stepping

down from their position due to stress. We hear of many schools where they're having problems recruiting new principals and in fairness who would want to take a job where you know there isn't enough time to complete it?"

"What's interesting is that the number one priority for teaching principals is not a pay rise or better working conditions for themselves. What they want first and foremost is the time to do their job. They're calling for a minimum of one 'release day' each week to cover their classes while they take care of the paperwork. After all their hard work and dedication I think that's the least we owe them," concluded Donnelly.

Wicklow to get 33 extra Special Needs Assistant posts

The total number of SNAs in Co. Wicklow is set to increase to 449, with 288 in primary, 80 in post primary and 81 in special needs schools.

A total of 800 new Special Needs Assistant posts are being created nationally for September.

Welcoming the news, Minister Andrew Doyle said "More children with special educational needs than ever before are now participating in school and this would not be possible without the unprecedented support of this Government, with a 1.9 billion investment in the sector, representing almost one fifth of the overall education budget and equates to a budget increase of 49% since 2011.

"This increase of 33 SNAs in Co. Wicklow from last year brings the total allocation of 449 SNA posts across Co. Wicklow. A pilot of a new service model the School Inclusion Model, for students with special educational and additional care needs is happening over 2019/20 school year also and includes some schools in Co. Wicklow.

"This Fine Gael led Government will invest almost €560million in SNAs this year (as part of a total €1.9 billion investment in special educational needs). In 2011, 22,284 children had access to SNA support. With the increased investment and today's confirmed allocations, about 37,500 pupils will receive that support.

"Our education system is increasingly better equipped to support children with special needs and support their full participation and progression and these extra posts will help us to achieve this Government's aim of allowing these children to fulfil their potential."

Exciting courses at Bray Institute

With July 1st fast approaching, the CAO final 'change of mind' date, it is important for learners to keep their options open and consider signing up for a PLC course. Over recent years many new avenues have opened up to students in pursuit of their dream career.

According to Gabriel Allen, Deputy Principal at Bray Institute of Further Education (BIFE), "Further Education offers a learner, who may not achieve the CAO points they wanted, the opportunity to gain advanced entry onto honours degree programmes, both in Ireland and abroad. It is also a very supportive route for the mature student".

He added, "The comprehensive range of courses available at BIFE provides an excellent opportunity to anyone who wants to advance their qualifications enhance their employment potential or progress their career."

Science Pre-university

This course is aimed and designed for learners who may not have studied all of the science subjects previously and will prepare them for entry to first year of a degree course. This course has had outstanding results with most graduates progressing to top rated universities.

Would you like to work in a Pharmacy?

Working in a busy atmosphere like the pharmacy retail sector is a rewarding and important job. There is a big demand from Pharmacies for the skilled counter staff. If you've been considering pharmacy retail as a career option, Bray

Institute have just the course to help you achieve your goals. Furthermore, these courses at BIFE are certified by the Irish Pharmaceutical Union (IPU), City & Guilds and supported by Pharmacies. You'll learn information technology skills, customer service, stock control, team-working and many more skills associated with the pharmacy retail sector, including health and beauty.

Dietetics, Nutrition & Food Science

BIFE have a new pre-university course starting this year in Dietetics, Nutrition & Food Science. The Agri-Food sector is one of Ireland's largest indigenous industries, employing over 150,000 people. This course is ideally suited for students who are interested in preparing for a career and/or further education

in agriculture, food or science.

Professional Cookery

With levels of qualified chefs at an all-time low in the industry, Bray Institute of Further Education has answered the call with its 2-year Professional Cookery programme. In just three short years, BIFE has developed its cookery curriculum into one of the busiest in the country with 50+ chefs in training in its 2-year Advanced Diploma programme. The colleges have a memorandum of understanding that allows successful candidates to progress directly to the third year of the Bachelor of Science programme in IT Tallaght.

Working as a Healthcare Assistant

If you are interested in working in the Care

Industry, BIFE provides the recognised qualification necessary for working as a Health Care Assistant in a variety of settings, including hospitals, day and residential care palliative care and the home. The course equips the carer with the knowledge and skills necessary to work in this rewarding role as a member of the care team. It is suitable for those wishing to embark on a care in caring and those already working in the sector who wish to gain a recognised qualification.

Fancy yourself as an Artist?

The new BTEC Art Practice course at BIFE offers an exciting and challenging programme of study providing students with both essential subject knowledge and skills. The course consists of a broad range of subjects

from drawing techniques to 3D studies in ceramics and mixed media, print-making, photography and art history.

Return to Work & IT Skills

If you are thinking of returning to work, this course offers the ideal opportunity to up-skilling and developing excellent practical skills and competencies for returning to the workplace. One of the features of this course is that classes are mainly in the morning so that Learners will have the afternoons free.

You will be offered the opportunity to be proficient in Word, Excel, Access and Outlook. BIFE has designed this course to suit those who have a busy life.

Mature Students

"There are also many opportunities for mature students who want to break into the world of paid employment. All courses have valuable accreditation and certification and offer progression routes to higher education, yet you don't need CAO points to study at Bray Institute," said Allen.

Places are still available on these courses but do hurry as they are filling fast. You can call the Institute during office hours on 01-2829668 or log on to www.bife.ie and apply on-line.



The BTEC Art Practice course at BIFE offers an exciting study programme

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CHARITY CYCLE FOR HOMELESS

One of the country's longest running and largest charity cycles marks its 30th anniversary this September. The Wexford Cycle, which is organised by Peter McVerry Trust, the national housing and homeless charity, traditionally sees cyclists travel from UCD, Dublin to Wexford Town, a distance of 135km.

This year there is also a shorter 100km route on offer. The 30th Wexford Cycle was recently launched by TV and Radio Presenter Matt Cooper at the Dublin offices of law firm Arthur Cox, who are also one of the event's sponsors. This year's event takes place on Saturday 14th September and the charity hopes to have over 400 cyclists take part on the day.

The cycle was originally started in 1989 by four students from UCD who wanted to raise money for Fr Peter McVerry's work with homeless young people in Dublin's inner city. Since then, the Wexford Cycle has taken place every year with hundreds of cyclists tak-

ing part to raise millions to tackle homelessness in the process.

Pat Doyle, CEO of Peter McVerry Trust, said "The Wexford Cycle is the single biggest event that we organise and raises valuable funds to help us tackle homelessness. The challenge of homelessness is now bigger than at any time during the 30-year history of the Wexford Cycle. That is why it is so important for people to take part in events like the Wexford Cycle. People's fundraising efforts enables Peter McVerry Trust to respond to the needs of people impacted by homelessness across Ireland."

Mr Doyle said the event is a fantastic day out for cyclists of all abil-

ities: "The Wexford Cycle is an absolutely great day out, it's not a race but a fun, charity cycle. We've even had people complete the cycle on tandems and chopper bikes.

"We have support stops at regular intervals and a well-deserved lunch stop at Inch. We have hundreds of volunteers and supporters all along the route, as well as support vehicles on the road all day on the route."

The cycle finishes up in White's Hotel in Wexford Town where there will be a post cycle BBQ and entertainment. For more information on the Wexford Cycle visit pmvtrust.ie/wexford-cycle



On 23rd June, bikers from all over Dublin and surrounding districts took part in a fundraiser for St. Joseph's Shankill. The organisers Pat and Frances O'Leary from Shankill would like to thank everyone who helped or participated for making it such a successful day for the nursing home. St. Joseph's was recently named Nursing Home of the Year for 2018

Registration now open for St. Kevin's Way 25km Challenge walking event

Children's charity Barretstown has announced the addition of a brand new annual event to its fundraising calendar to help raise €50,000 for the charity.

The inaugural St. Kevin's Way 25km Challenge will take place on Sunday 6th October, with registration for the walk open now.

The walking route will take place in the scenic hills and varied landscapes of Wicklow, following the footsteps of St. Kevin, through the hills of Wicklow to the monastic

ruins in Glendalough, where ancient flagstones of the old pilgrim path are still visible.

Participants are welcome to enter individually or as part of a team of four. Registration on the day will be held in The Brockagh Centre, Laragh; walkers will then be driven to the starting line in Vallemount and the walk

will finish back at The Brockagh Centre.

The registration fee is €50 for an individual or €175 for a team of four. All those participating in the walk are asked to raise an additional €100 for donation to Barretstown; once registered, walkers will receive a fundraising pack by post, making it simple to collect dona-

tions. All of the money raised from the St. Kevin's Way 25km Challenge will go directly to fund Barretstown's life-changing programmes of Therapeutic Recreation.

Commenting on the new event Dee Ahearn, CEO of Barretstown said: "We are really excited to be launching a brand new fundraising event in our very special 25th Anniversary year. Active events like the St. Kevin's Way 25km Challenge are always popular among our

supporters; childhood stops for seriously ill children and what better way to help us Press Play than to get outdoors and have some fun yourself!"

For further information, to register to take part in the event, or to set up an online fundraising page, then simply visit barretstown.org/events/st-kevins-way-challenge or contact Donna at (045) 864 115 or fundraising@barretstown.org.

Voices of Bray Community Choir raises €6500 for The Shauna Kavanagh Foundation

Following the recent series of sell-out concerts in the Mermaid Arts Centre in Bray, the Voices of Bray Community Choir presented a cheque for €6,500 the proceeds of the concerts, to representatives of the Shauna Kavanagh Foundation, which included the late Shauna's parents Brendan and Ann Kavanagh, and her brother, Dylan.

In accepting the cheque, Brendan said that this would help the Foundation enormously in their efforts to assist those suffering from long term illnesses, including Cystic Fibrosis and to help offset the day-to-day expenses incurred by families as

they support their loved ones struggling with such illnesses.

Brendan thanked the Choir for their very generous donation and for the opportunity to highlight their Foundation, which was founded in 2018, following the death of Shauna,

who so bravely fought Cystic Fibrosis.

The summer series of three concerts were an outstanding success again this year. Under the guidance of their Musical Director John Ivory, piano accompanist Justin McCann, and featuring

special guests Eimile Sheehy on cello and Killian Ivory on guitar, the choir took on its most ambitious and varied programme to date, featuring more challenging arrangements.

The eclectic mix took the audience on a musical journey with songs from Joni Mitchell, Billy Joel, Radiohead, Rodgers & Hammerstein, ELO (and many more), and from shows such as The Greatest Showman, South Pacific and My Fair Lady.

The Choir enjoyed singing this programme as much as the audience enthusiastically received it!

Having rehearsed each Wednesday night since last September the choir will now take a well-earned break but will return in September in preparation for another exciting season which will include some Choral Festivals and the annual Christmas Concert in St. Fergal's Church on Sunday 8th December.



Greystones man Peter Lynch was part of a 22-man team that completed the Four Peaks Challenge

Greystones man conquers four peaks for charity

Peter Lynch from Greystones recently went above and beyond to conquer the Four Peaks Challenge and raise much needed funds for charity.

The local man was part of a team of 22 colleagues from Grafton Merchants ROI. The company is today thrilled to announce that it has raised €68,456.10 in vital funds for four Irish charities including Focus Ireland, CMRF Crumlin, Pieta House and Cystic Fibrosis Ireland, which were carefully chosen by colleagues at Grafton Merchants ROI.

The Four Peaks challenge saw a 22-strong Grafton Merchants ROI team travel across the country to climb the highest mountain in each of Ireland's four provinces in four days. In preparation for the mountain ascension, the team carried out months of training for the demanding four-day challenge. The team kicked off the significant feat starting with Carrauntoohil in Co. Kerry, followed by Mweelrea in Co. Mayo, Slieve Donard in Co. Down, and finally finishing with Lugnaquilla in Co. Wicklow in Co. Mayo between the 2nd and the 5th of May.

Category Manager Peter works in the Ashfield branch and together with his teammates at Grafton Merchants ROI, they not only defeated the Four Peaks but also smashed their fundraising target of €40,000 by raising €68,456.10 - almost €30,000 in excess of the initial goal for the four charities that were chosen with great care.

Commenting on his experience of the Four Peaks Challenge Peter said: "The Four Peaks Challenge was a thoroughly enjoyable experience. I especially enjoyed the bonding time spent with colleagues taking on this challenge together. It was a tough task but I'm a hiker so have some experience in the area already. Raising over €60,000 for such great causes made it all worth it. Truly, it is a fantastic achievement, especially for the smaller charities involved."



The Voices of Brsay Community Choir present a cheque for €6,500 to representatives Anne, Brendan and Dylan Kavanagh of the Shauna Kavanagh Foundation

Wicklow design student and ceramicist recognised at Future Makers Awards & Supports 2019



Design & modelmaking student Naomi Black from Bray

Two emerging designers and craftspeople from Wicklow have been announced as recipients of the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland's (DCCoI) Future Makers Awards & Supports programme for 2019.

Future Makers is one of Europe's largest prize-funded award programmes for students and emerging makers and a total of €25,000 was awarded to 23 designers and craftspeople this year. The announcement took place at an awards ceremony on Friday, 14th June in The Westbury, Dublin which was officially opened by fashion designer, educator and former Future Makers winner, Natalie B. Coleman. The certificates were presented to the recipients on the night by DCCoI Chair Breege O'Donoghue.

In the Emerging Maker category, ceramicist Chloë Dowds received Travel & Training Support (€1,000) to take part in a residency to coincide with the 49th Congress of the International Academy of Ceramics in Finland. The judges commented that it is 'wonderful to be able to support someone with a

strong professional and creative practice going to an important international event.' Chloë has her studio in Newtownmountkennedy.

In the Student/Recent Graduate category, Material Support (€500) was awarded to Naomi Black, who is studying 3D design, modelmaking and digital art at Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design & Technology (IADT). The judges felt it was important to support the use of craft skills in the wider creative sector, commenting that 'Naomi's model making is craft applied to the film industry and shows the relevance of craft skills even in industries that are highly dependent on technology.' Naomi comes from Bray.

Divided into student/recent graduate and emerging maker categories, the Future Makers Awards & Supports programme recognises and rewards vision, innova-



Ceramicist Chloë Dowds from Newtown (right) with Breege O'Donoghue, Chair of the Design and Crafts Council of Ireland

tion and excellence in both making and the creative process and is one of several DCCoI initiatives supporting a new generation of talent in the design and craft sector. Celebrating its 10-year anniversary in 2019, this

year's prize fund was increased to €25,000 reflecting DCCoI's ongoing commitment to supporting and investing in the potential of talented makers that are in the crucial early stages of their career journeys.

'Cherished Memories' prizegiving as part of Ireland's first primary schools dementia awareness programme

Saint Joseph's Shankill, the only care home in Ireland solely dedicated to dementia care, celebrated the first ever primary schools dementia awareness programme at Explorium, The National Sports and Science Centre. The Centre hosted the inaugural Cherished Memories Art Competition Prize giving on Tuesday the 18th of June.

Mark Langtry the Science guy was on hand to present the students with their prizes. Forty local primary schools were invited to enter and over 600 students took part in one of the five categories.

The "Cherished Memories Art Competition" focused on cherished memories, and what memories mean to primary school children. Children took part by drawing their cherished memory and wrote a few words about that memory explaining why it is important to them.

Siobhan Grant fundraising manager at Saint Joseph's says "It has given us a platform to establish connections with the local schools in our community to begin a conversation about dementia with our young people and how we can all help people enjoy the quality of life they deserve."

The winning students and their schools are as follows:
Junior and Senior Infants

1st Oisín Coyne; St. Brigids, Boys National School, Foxrock, teacher Miss O'Sullivan
2nd Bobby Berkery; St. Brigids, Boys National School, Foxrock, teacher Miss O'Sullivan
3rd Yasmine Reynolds; Powerscourt N.S. Enniskerry, teacher Ms Honner

1st and 2nd Classes

1st Julie Regan; St. Brigids Girls National School, Cabinteely, teacher Ms Frawley
2nd Eve Winter; St. Brigids Girls National School, Cabinteely, teacher Ms Frawley
3rd Paul McEnroe; St. Brigids Boys National School, Foxrock, teacher Ms Sheehy

3rd and 4th Classes

1st Juliette Morehead; St. Brigids Girls National School, Cabinteely, teacher Ms Ni Chuireain
2nd Sianna Kelly; St. Brigids Girls National School, Cabinteely, teacher Ms Mc Feely
3rd Danny O'Shea Ms Ni Chuireain; St. Patricks National School, Curtlestown; teacher Ms Conroy;

5th and 6th Classes

1st Lucy Miller; Rathmichael National School; teacher Ms. Johnson
2nd Cathal Murphy; St. Brigids National School, Greystones; teacher Ms. Murray
3rd Emma Farrell and Emma Nolan; St. Patricks National School, Curtlestown; teacher Ms. Conroy

Special Education Classes

1st Aidan Kinahan; St. Johns N.S. Ballybrack
2nd Max Fitzpatrick; St. Johns N.S. Ballybrack

A special prize of a day pass for the whole class to Explorium; The National Sports and Science Museum for the Best Class effort (for a class that has made the best effort collectively), and this lucky and talented class was Ms. Fox's Senior Infants Class at Rathmichael National School.

The winners prizes were donated by the new Lidl Shankill, (opened on the 13th of June) and from Explorium; The National Sports and Science Centre. On Saint Joseph's Shankill's website there are some classroom discussion tips on their website www.saintjosephsshankill.ie for teachers to help their students delve a little deeper into what dementia means and the affects it may have on people and their lives, and ways to help them. This is the only primary school initiative promoting awareness about dementia in Ireland.



This entry from Yasmine Reynolds from Powerscourt National School, Enniskerry, won the 3rd place prize in the Cherished Memories Art Competition

Thousands expected to attend the Taste of Wicklow weekend

Thousands of people are expected to attend the Taste of Wicklow, which takes place in the Abbey Grounds, Wicklow Town on the weekend of 28th - 30th June.

The fun-filled weekend kicks off on Friday 28th June with the outdoor screening of the family favourite movie "The Greatest Showman" in the Abbey Grounds. Gates open at 9pm, with snacks, music and a full bar available. The movie starts at 10.20pm.

On Saturday 29th June "Live at the Abbey" hosts a star-studded music festival, with music starting at 5.30pm with local bands, followed by very well-known headline acts - the very popular Bob Marley tribute band "Jameire" and the ever-popular UB40 tribute band "Promises & Lies" take to the stage to conclude what is guaranteed to be a fantastic evening of entertainment. Music ends at 10.30pm.

The highlight of the weekend is the traditional well-established "Taste of Wicklow" food festival on Sunday 30th June, which takes place from 12 noon - 7pm. With celebrity chefs Derry Clarke, Catherine Fulvio, Paul Kelly, Rory Morahan and a host of local chefs showcasing all of the wonderful food that Co. Wicklow has to offer.

The "Taste of Wicklow" on Sunday is truly a day for all the family - with over 40

food stalls and 30 craft stalls. Apart from the entry cost, all entertainment is free of charge, with face-painting, magicians, clowns, children's games, stilt walkers and lots of good music.

Tickets cost €10 (OAP's €5 and children under the age of 12 go free!).

Please note: In the interest of health & safety - only guide dogs will be allowed entry to the grounds.

Fundraising raffle tickets are now on sale at selected shops throughout the town. There is a great selection of cash and other prizes. Tickets bought in advance will give you entry to the raffle and free entry to the Taste of Wicklow on Sunday.

Last year, almost 5,000 people attended the event, in wonderful weather, in the beautiful surrounds of the Abbey Grounds, which is the perfect setting for this fun filled family day!

To guarantee your admission on Sunday, the advice of Festival Chairman John Sinnott is to purchase your ticket now in your local shop, or book online at www.tasteofwicklow.ie

Young people unleash their creativity at Cruinniú na nÓg

Over 70 hours of free creative activities took place across the county for under 18's as part of Creative Ireland Programme initiative supported by Wicklow County Council and RTÉ.

Brought to you by Wicklow County Council's Culture Team, Cruinniú na nÓg is an initiative of the Creative Ireland Programme at the Department of Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht and is presented in partnership with RTÉ and the Local Authorities, managed by Wicklow Arts Office and Executive Producer Michelle Heming.

'The story, the song and the great outdoors' were this year's Cruinniú na nÓg themes for County Wicklow.

Eleven venues offered workshops and performances for ages from 0 years with Wave in Greystones Library to 15+, at the Movies and Folklore Workshops at Mermaid Arts Centre, Aileen Lambert, Traditional Singer in Scoil na Caróline Mhuire, The Secret Garden Reading and Traditional Singing Initiative Lets Plant a Seed in Tinahely Courthouse and everything in between. Amazing fun for the whole family.

A large-scale family programme at Russborough House & Parklands took place with our Family Fun Day. A carnival atmosphere, vintage rides, art workshops, face-painters, live music, sports, workshops and many more, The Speks, Wild Turkeys, Amy Barrett, Mark Caplice and the Key Notes all wowed the crowds with wonderful song. There was a wonderful atmosphere throughout the day.

Wicklow working lives

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

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

Work accounts for so much of our waking lives, yet we rarely reflect upon or celebrate the contribution of those whose vocations and careers are the bedrock of a thriving society. As a broadcaster, Marie Louise O'Donnell has had the privilege of spending 'work time'



Author Marie Louise O'Donnell

and 'thought time' with a broad array of individuals across Ireland, gaining a unique insight into their particular occupation and learning about what inspires or motivates them in their chosen field.

Irish Working Lives is the story of the encounters - by turns candid and lyrical - and illuminate the ways in which these individuals perceive their occupation, its day-to-day demands and the inextricable

relationship between work life and spiritual life.

Whether spending a day on the road with a postman in Co. Wicklow or meeting the Galway gardener who has used her own experience of personal tragedy to help others heal, Marie Louise's assiduity and innate curiosity enlivens each and every encounter. Alongside each testimony, award-winning photographer Eric Luke's stunning images explore each contributor's relationship with their trade or calling and are a wonderful complement to Marie Louise's evocative prose.



Postman Brendan Hughes from Ashford



Carmelite nun, Monica Lawless

Coming up at Mermaid Theatre...

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 in Marino Centre from Monday 8th - Friday 12 July at 10am, 11.30am & 2pm. There will be 3 audience members per show, each with an adult companion - with everyone in the water!

Three performers take the audience on a magical journey of exquisite harmony singing and gentle water play designed especially for children with complex needs that embraces and celebrates the sensory dialogue that they have with the world around them. Tickets cost €10 per child and are on sale now through Mermaid Arts Centre Box Office on 01-2724030.

Pop Up Mermaid In Association with Project Arts Centre

Take a leap of faith into the unknown with Mermaid Arts Centre on Saturday 13 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. Tickets cost €12/10 and are on sale now from box office at 01-2724030 and online and www.mermaidartscentre.ie

Pop Up Picnic

Helium in partnership with Mermaid is delighted to invite you to join us for Pop Up Picnic on Saturday 20 July at 11am, 1pm & 3pm. Friendly buzzy bees...dancing oranges...fluttering songbirds...a picnic full of magical delights! Helium Arts' Pop Up Picnic is a feast of multi-sensory play, relaxation and surprise for young children with complex needs and their families. A soothing world of music, sound, puppetry, movement and tactile fun is waiting to be discovered in this enchanting, interactive performance. This is a free event. Booking is required through box office on 01-2724030.



Pop Up Mermaid will present a line-up of delectable bite-sized performances across theatre, dance and film, on Saturday 13th July

I'm Enough: the shadowlands of the human condition explored in nudes

The exhibition 'I'm Enough', by Limerick-born, Cork-based artist Ian Brennan, will run in the Courthouse Arts Centre in Tinahely from July 13th to 31st. The exhibition includes a series of nude paintings and an accompanying documentary.

A year and a half ago Brennan decided to give up the day job to paint professionally. Totally untutored, his raw talent has already won him fans internationally and locally.

His portraits are beautiful, yet fierce. This series of work looks at shame, vulnerability, abuse, the inner-critic, sexuality, depression, the relationship with the body itself and the healing that can exist in being witnessed in these aspects of the human condition.

Filming the connection between the sitter and the artist is what makes this exhibition unique. The audience can see the process from beginning to end. From initially meeting the sitter, to revealing the finished pieces and all the feelings in between.

Brennan allows the audience to witness the intimacy that exists in the relationship with his subjects, an insight that is rarely shared in the art world. His connection with his sitters is powerful. His work reminds people of a young Lucian Freud, only his figures are finer and sharper and alive enough as though they are about to exit the canvas.

"Allowing the audience to be part of the process is paramount for me. It's the very thing that makes my work relational. My work cannot exist in isolation for me it would have no meaning, no healing, no energy, no purpose. I want to invite the viewer into the process, as this in turn creates an invitation to look at one's self."

"I work solely from the energy I feel between the sitter and I. It's not a cognitive experience, rather a holistic experience. I transcend my feelings, my bodily sensations and connect with the person on a level that hopefully is apparent in the work. In a sense I 'become' the sitter for the work to happen. When I take paint to canvas I then use the experience that I have downloaded in my body to paint



Portrait by Ian Brennan

from. I work from photos, but the essence of that person is installed in my psyche. It's an exhausting process as it means having to enter the feelings, body and energy of another person. It can take me weeks to finish a piece, leaving me both physically and emotionally exhausted after the work. To say I become invested is an understatement. I have shed tears, felt anger, felt abandoned, felt stuck, felt shame, felt physically sick, felt disgusted with myself. There were even moments where I could not look at the pieces.

"All of this is part of the journeying into the unknown, journeying into another person and thus journeying into myself, for each part of the person I am painting exists within me too. My aim with this series of paintings is to show the world the beauty of connecting through our shadow parts, which so often remain hidden. Allowing our pain be witnessed can be such a beautiful experience. I ask for the viewer to witness their own internal reactions to my work, for this is where you will see your own shadows."



Pictured at the annual Midsummer Lunch at Open Door Day Centre in Bray were Suzanne Hackett Cox and her mum Mary Hackett. Over 100 guests enjoyed a fabulous meal with dessert and wine. There was a raffle with fantastic prizes including hampers, art, jewellery, cosmetic sets, woodwork and many other prizes. Over €3,500 was raised on the day, and this will go towards the many activities available to adults with physical disabilities in North Wicklow and South County Dublin. Pic: Joe McQuillan

€270,000 allocation to support Order of Malta

The Department of Rural and Community Development has allocated €270,000 to support the work of the Order of Malta Ireland. The funding will be provided under the Department's Scheme to Support National Organisations in the Community and Voluntary Sector (SSNO) 2019 -2022.

The charity has a number of branches around the country including Bray, where an Ambulance Corps Unit has had a presence since 1943.

Speaking last week, Minister Ring said: "I'm delighted that the Order of Malta will avail of this funding which will assist them to operate over the next three years and fund core staff positions. The Order of Malta Ambulance Corps does fantastic work and is one of the most remarkable volunteer organisations in the country. Last year, 2,500 Order of Malta volunteers worked almost 300,000 hours in the service of the public.

"We depend greatly on the spirit of volunteerism, which organisations like the Order of Malta epitomise, and I am delighted that my Department is able to support their ongoing work in this way. The scale of the work carried out by Order of Malta volunteers is remarkable."

Last year, the Order of Malta carried out 5,671 first aid duties, delivered 418 first aid courses to the public, and trained 6,500 people in CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation)

Minister Ring continued "The organisation provides first aid and emergency medical ambulance services to

an extensive array of organisations, events and festivals throughout the island of Ireland and has 69 active ambulance units. Many of these events would not be able to take place without their presence.

"The Order of Malta also manages a range of community care services including day care centres, community care, centres for the elderly and supports welfare clinics for the homeless. It also provide essential respite for disabled young people at its facilities.

"I urge the public to support the work of the Order of Malta, an organisation to whom we owe a debt of grati-

tude."

The Department of Rural and Community Development recently announced funding of €18.5m over the coming three years to 73 national community and voluntary organisations, including the Order of Malta, under the SSNO.

Locally in Bray, the Ambulance Unit provides ambulance cover for all types of events such as football matches in the Carlisle Grounds, St. Patrick's Day and Bray Summer Festivals, Groove Festival and Hell & Back and more. They also provide transport home from Bray Old Folks Club.

Young Arklow entrepreneur to compete for national IBYE title

Competing for Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur in the upcoming national final in the Best Start-up category will be Ross Lawless from Arklow. Ross co-founded CALT (Computer Aided Life Technology) Dynamics to create technologies that have a positive global impact. They develop and design decentralising technologies like, 3D printers, vertical farming systems, and communication technologies. With a drive for entrepreneurship Ross has helped grow CALT Dynamics into an international company.

The Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford, and Wicklow Region's "Best Young Entrepreneurs" were announced at an awards ceremony hosted by Carlow's Local Enterprise Office on the 19th of June at the Stephouse Hotel, Borris. The winners were chosen from 12 finalists, shortlisted from almost 157 applicants in the competition which was launched earlier this year by the LEO's as part of a nationwide search to find "Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur (IBYE).

Now in its fifth year, IBYE is a nationwide campaign to celebrate Ireland's young entrepreneurs and is open to individuals aged 18 to 35 who have an innovative business idea, new start-up or established business.

24 contenders (three from each region nation-

ally - one in each category) will be selected to compete for the national title of Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur on Sunday 15th of September 2019. A further €100,000 investment fund will be available to invest in the winners of the three categories at the national final - one of which will also be named as "Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur".

Eight regional finals are taking place across the country over the next few weeks in the search for Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur 2019. Previous LEO Wicklow national finalists include Kate Dempsey of Irish Mussel Seed Company, Maurice Sheehy of Fleet, Cathal O'Sullivan of Game X, Shane Bonner of Newmarket Kitchen, James Keogh of Rathwood, Michael Noble

of Noble Education, Shane Byrne and Philip Kirwan of Showoff.

Wicklow's competitor in the 'Best Business Idea' category was Billy O'Neill from Aeroforms and the competitor in the 'Best Established Business' category was David Benko from Acoustic Materials.

Going forward to compete for the national title in the 'Best Business Idea' category is John Duggan of LoanIt from Kilkenny, in the 'Best Start-up' category is Ross Lawless of CALT Dynamics from Wicklow and in the 'Best Established Business' category is David Bambrick of Equireel from Carlow. The national finals of Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur take place on Sunday 15th of September 2019, where a further €100,000 invest-

ment fund will be available to

invest in the winners of the three categories at the national final - one of which will also be named as "Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur".

Vibeke Delahunt, Head of Enterprise, Local Enterprise Office Wicklow said "We are delighted to have had such a positive response from so many strong candidates from Wicklow this year. It is fantastic to see so many young entrepreneurs here tonight with innovative ideas and businesses. The skills and knowledge gained by all involved in the competition we hope will stay with each participant and help grow their businesses even further. We are excited to see what will be in-store for our regional winners and we wish them every success in the

upcoming national finals! IBYE is a remarkable platform that we hope will encourage and grow further young entrepreneurship and job creation in the region."

Further details on the competition and supports available to young entrepreneurs are available through www.localenterprise.ie and www.ibye.ie.



Ross Lawless from Arklow, winner of the 'Best Start up' category

'Trespass laws need to be reformed to deal with scourge of rural crime'

Fianna Fáil TD Pat Casey has said that Ireland's trespass laws must be reviewed and brought under the criminal justice system to protect businesses and land owners.

Deputy Casey said, "At present, illegal trespassing is dealt with solely under our civil law system. It is not treated as a criminal issue. Fianna Fáil believes that this needs to be changed so that some serious forms of trespass can be categorised as crimes. This is necessary to deal with those types of trespass which are for the purpose of gathering information about property that can be then be used to commit theft and burglary. That type of premeditated trespass can have a very damaging impact on Wicklow farmers, landowners and businesses.

"To deal with the scourge of rural crime in Wicklow, other changes are needed. Bail laws must be changed to ensure that repeat offenders cannot get bail as easily as they can at present.

"Rural Garda stations in Wicklow, closed by the last Fine Gael and Labour government, but deemed integral to reducing rural crime must be reopened, and we need to see more Gardaí working in the hearts of communities across rural Wicklow.

"What many people are deeply frustrated with is the failure to properly roll out Garda-controlled CCTV schemes in Wicklow Towns. This needs to change to give rural dwellers more confidence.

"We need to see root and branch reform in order to dampen the rise in rural crime in Wicklow. Fianna Fáil has consistently put forward common sense proposals, and will continue to do so to make living, working and farming in rural communities safer for everyone," concluded Deputy Casey.



Pictured at the annual Midsummer Lunch at Open Door Day Centre in Bray were Claire Fallon, Rita Wall, and Georgia Gallagher. Over 100 guests enjoyed a fabulous meal with dessert and wine. Music was provided by Mary Fogarty together with Shay and Damien. There was a raffle with fantastic prizes including hampers, art, jewellery, cosmetic sets, woodwork and many other prizes. Suzanne Cox of Open Door said "Many thanks to all who supported this major event. After costs, over €3,500 was raised on the day. These funds will go towards the many activities available to adults with physical disabilities in North Wicklow and South County Dublin." Visit www.opendoor.ie or call 01 2867123 to find out more about Open Door.

Wicklow welcomes all - help to plan your council visit

Wicklow County Council has produced a series of familiarisation videos to help members of the public with accessibility arrangements for County Buildings and the five Municipal District Offices.

The focus of these videos is to assist people with learning difficulties, Autism, physical disabilities, and/or anxiety concerns in different elements encountered when visiting Council offices.

Wicklow County Council's digital initiative was part-funded under the Department of Rural and Community Development's Digital Innovation Programme. The programme supports local authority-led projects that demonstrate clear potential for public benefit and that can be scaled up or replicated elsewhere.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Irene Winters, said: "This innovative project is testament to Wicklow County Council's vision and

commitment for greater quality customer service for all. I think these videos will be of great assistance to people with learning or physical disabilities who need to visit the different Council offices."

Mr Frank Curran, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, said: "This creative series of informative videos will greatly benefit the wider public and citizens of County Wicklow. We plan to extend these productions with buildings such as our public libraries and recycling facilities and hope that other Local Authorities will follow our lead and replicate this initiative."

The videos are available on the Council's website at www.wicklow.ie/living/AccessVideos



Kia expands electric range as new e-Soul goes on sale in Wicklow

By Martin McCarthy

The Kia Soul is going back on sale in Ireland - this time as a high spec, high tech, EV with a range of 452kms and is more distinctive, dynamic and innovative than ever. Whilst available with petrol or diesel engines elsewhere, in Europe the 3rd generation Soul will be powered exclusively by electric energy.

Kia Motors Ireland is offering the e-Soul with two trims and just the long range (64kw/452kms) power-plant. Both trim levels are generous both featuring 10.25" touchscreen AV/Nav display and 7" supervision cluster and safety features including Lane Keep Assist, Smart Cruise Control and Front Collision Avoidance. Additional features on the K2 include full leather trim, Harmon Kardon Sound System, Heads Up Display and Blind Spot Detection. The K2 comes on the market at €35,995 and the K3 at €37,495 including VRT relief and government grants.

"Kia Motors Ireland are delighted to launch both the e-Niro and e-Soul into the Irish market. There is built up demand in the country for a wider range of EV vehicles to choose from and public reaction for these new cars has been tremendous. Already demand for 192 cars has exceeded demand and we are now seeking interest for 2020", commented Kia Motors Ireland, Managing Director, James Brooks. "We are also happy to offer customers the choice of a Plug In Hybrid variant of Niro and this choice will widen early next year with the arrival of the new xCeed PHEV."

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WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Significant Further Information has been lodged to Wicklow County Council in relation to planning Ref: 18/1397 - Proposed 60 no. two storey dwellings (now 61 dwellings) in semi detached, detached and terraced format, and a creche all with connections to services and associated works including roads, footpaths, public lighting, open spaces, landscaping, boundaries and boundary treatments, attenuation system and entrance for J and V O Shaughnessy at Ballygannon, Rathrum, Co. Wicklow. Significant further information/ revised plans have been furnished to the planning authority in respect of the proposed development and are available for inspection or purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of the authority during its public opening hours. A Submission or observations 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 notices. A submission or observation must be accompanied by the prescribed fee except in the case of a person or body who has already a submission or observation.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Ger Devlin Haulage and Plant Hire Ltd intends to apply for planning permission for a development at Annagolan, Ashford, Co. Wicklow. The development will consist of the importation and deposition of inert subsoil and topsoil for land profiling and re-contouring purposes at an existing agricultural holding of 2.34 hectares and all ancillary site works which includes an additional 0.328 hectares of internal haul road. The purpose of this work is to improve the site for agriculture. A Certificate of Registration under the Waste Management (Facility Permit and Registration Regulations), S.I. 821 of 2007, is required for this development. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow, during its public opening hours. 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 to the planning authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) 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.

Planning • Planning • Planning

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Fintan & Andrea O'Reilly intend to apply for planning permission for development at this site: 6A New Road, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow. The development will consist of conversion of existing attic to habitable space (resulting in 5 bedroom dwelling) to include 1 No. dormer window and 1 No. rooflight to front, 1 No. rooflight to side, and 4 No. rooflights to rear elevation. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made 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.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Terrie Dunne seeks permission for Partial change of use of the existing commercial premises including change of use of an existing retail unit to a one-bedroom apartment at ground floor level and change of use of existing retail/office use to a one-bedroom apartment at first floor level at 50 Main Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Yuriy Shparuta seeks Permission for new 3m vehicle entrance with gates at 20 B Boghall Cottages, Bray, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I Joanne Carstairs intend to apply for retention permission for the construction of dwelling as built granted under planning ref 18/362 - these changes include increasing the size of the dwelling to 118 sqm by extending original floor plan to north, garage as built in new location and associate works at Downhill, Bray, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Council Buildings, Wicklow Town, during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee within 5 weeks from submission of application to Planning Authority.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Board of Management seeks permission for erection of exterior 2.5m high platform lift and a series of ramps to connect to Building D and the upper levels of Building C and to the platform lift. 2 further ramps at entrance to Building A. Works are to provide wheelchair access for disabled child and improve universal access at Scoil na Coroine Mhuire, Ashford, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

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.

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