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Tuesday 9th July 2019 5 Eglinton Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow Tel: 01 - 2869111 www.wicklowtimes.net E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie

# SKULL & BONES FOUND

## SKELETAL REMAINS DISCOVERED AT BRAY RECYCLING CENTRE

It's not every day that the grisly discovery of a human skull and bones has an innocent explanation.

That was the case last week however when it emerged that the skull and bones that were discovered at Bray Recycling Centre in Fassaroe, were apparently used as medical aids for teaching purposes and were thrown away entirely by accident by an elderly GP.

An investigation was launched and the Gardai released a statement saying "Gardai in Bray were called to a recycling plant in Bray today where a skull and bones were discovered. The

items will now be examined. Investigations are continuing." The following day they released a statement saying they were satisfied the remains are medical specimens for the purpose of education.

It was later reported that the bones were returned to their rightful owner.

A Gardai spokesperson told *Wicklow Times* they couldn't divulge who the owner was. The age of the bones was not determined.

It was reported by

Herald.ie that the skull and bones were dumped accidentally by a GP who was clearing out his office following his retirement. The site quotes an unnamed source who said "he was doing a big clean out of his premises, his father had been a GP before him and had certain historical items there which had been used as a teaching or instruction aid back in the day. This included the skull and the bones."

Medical students now use plastic replicas of



The HSE are now working on a plan to extend the Primary Care Centre in Wicklow town. Minister Simon Harris said: "The extension has the potential to deliver a day centre for older people in the community and more clinical services to help people avoid travelling to acute hospitals." The centre currently has an extensive range of services including a GP service, chronic disease management, public health nursing, occupational therapy, speech and therapy, social work and dental services. It also has an ambulance base and a nursing home on site." Pictured at the announcement last Friday were Laura Magahy, Executive Director of Slaintecare, and Martina Qually from the HSE with Minister Harris. See full story page 3.

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skeletons in their studies, but up until thirty or forty years ago it was common for those studying medicine to use a real human skeleton. This can lead to a dilemma when doctors and their relatives literally find a skeleton in the closet and wonder how to dispose of it.

The mix-up apparently occurred as the retired GP accidentally placed the box containing the skull and bones among the boxes that were to be taken to the recycling facility. It's understood by CCTV footage at the recycling facility which showed his car registration number.

The discovery was reported to the Gardai at 4pm on Wednesday 3rd July, after the skull was discovered at the recycling facility. A spokesperson from the

Garda Press Office told *Wicklow Times* "I'm not sure if it was a full skeleton, but I believe it was a skull and several other bones".

It's understood that the bones were examined on site by Gardai and a forensic pathologist.

The worst was initially feared when the skull and bones were found as it was not the first time that human remains were discovered at the facility. Three years ago, the recycling centre hit the headlines when the body of a baby girl was found on the site.

Later named Alannah, the baby girl was buried in Redford Ceremony in Greystones with the headstone paid for by Greenstar. A number of appeals went out for the mother of the child to come forward but no contact was ever made.

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## What's Happening...

## Carnew Girl Guides

Carnew Girl Guides past and present, Guides and Leaders, are invited to celebrate Girl Guiding in Carnew for the last 18 years. "We would be delighted for as many people to come join us to celebrate. It will take place on Saturday 13th July at 2.30 in the Church of the Most Holy Rosary, Carnew and afterwards in St. Brigids Hall. Any queries can be made to 0863962492 or 0863162775."

## Aughrim and District Active Retirement

Aughrim Active Retirement are going to Shelbourne Park Greyhound Races on Tuesday night, 16th July. Package which includes entry and 2 course dinner is €25. Bus will be extra. Payment in advance please. Monday walks continue for the summer with coffee afterwards. Meet at 10.30am. All welcome.

## Citizens Information

The Citizens Information Centre at the Brockagh Resource Centre is open for information relating to your rights and entitlements from 10 am until noon on the first and third Tuesday of each month. The next clinics will take place on Tuesday 16th July. No appointment is necessary for this free and confidential service.

## Glendalough Country Market &amp; Car Boot Sales

This has now moved to the 2nd Sunday of the month. Encouraging local and non-local producers of plants, vegetables, crafts etc. The next event will be on Sunday, 14th July, open from 10am to 4pm. Please pre-book indoor spaces early. Contact the Brockagh Centre on 0404-45600, emailbrockaghcarboot@gmail or brockaghoffice@gmail.com if you wish to book an indoor space or if you prefer to sell outside just show up at 8am on the morning.

## Kilcoole community policing clinic

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

## Laragh Glendalough Tidy Towns

The panel for the biodiversity area has arrived and will be erected very shortly. Judging will be ongoing over the next two months, so it is important everyone makes a special effort to keep the Laragh-Glendalough area looking clean and tidy.

## Newtown &amp; Newcastle Men's Shed open day

The Newtown & Newcastle Men's Shed are holding an Open Day on Saturday 27th July from 12pm to 4pm. We wish to clarify that the name of the group is the Newtown & Newcastle Men's Shed and not the Newcastle Men's Shed as stated in last week's issue.



At the launch of the Wicklow Hospice Foundation Colour Run were Sinead Tarmey (Wicklow Hospice Foundation), Lucy Tarmey (Wicklow Hospice Foundation), Cllr Irene Winters (Cathaoirleach, Wicklow County Council), Hannah Caw (Wicklow Hospice Foundation), and Denise O'Shea (Wicklow Sports Partnership). The event, sponsored by Wicklow County Council, will take place on Sunday 21st July at 10am at The Murrough, Wicklow Town. Registration outside the Brass Fox opens at 9am. €30 family, €20 adult and €10 child under All proceeds go to the Wicklow Hospice. There will be fun spot prizes. Wear an old white top! To register online go to [itsplainsailing.com/club/wicklowhospice](http://itsplainsailing.com/club/wicklowhospice) pay on the day is also available.

## Join the collective voice for the Uplands

If you live, work or perhaps enjoy recreational activities in the Wicklow and Dublin uplands, then an event this week hosted by Wicklow Uplands Council offers the perfect occasion to be part of the conversation on its sustainable development.

Beginning at 7pm on the 8th of July in the Glendalough Hotel, the event commences with a panel meeting which provides an opportunity for networking and discussion amongst the tourism, community, recreation and farming sectors and to make nominations to the Board of Directors. The AGM starts at 8pm with an overview on what has been a very busy 12 months for the council. The keynote address will be given by Minister for Health Simon Harris. Formed in 1997, Wicklow Uplands Council is an independent, voluntary organisation that offers a collective voice to its diverse membership.



Focussing on the sustainable development of the Wicklow and Dublin uplands, the Council is involved with a wide range of projects such as recreational and trail development, PURE Project, the innovative SUAS Project, deer management and community led projects such as the countywide network of heritage interpretative panels. The Council also leads policy development on a range of issues affecting upland communities and its habitats. All interested parties are very welcome and for further information, please visit [www.wicklowuplands.ie](http://www.wicklowuplands.ie) or contact the office on 01-2818406.


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The first ever Kaleidoscope family festival saw performers from the worlds of music, dance, art, story-telling, design, food, sports, science and much more entertain families over three days across 18 stages in the grounds of Russborough House. Pictured are Triona and Ruadhan Donohue and Marie and Tommy Nolan. Pic: Roisin Murphy O'Sullivan

# X-RAY AND ULTRA SOUND FACILITIES PLANNED FOR BRAY PRIMARY CARE CENTRE

Minister Simon Harris has announced that there are now plans to add diagnostic facilities including X-Ray and Ultra-Sound to the Primary Care Centre currently under construction in Bray.

Minister Harris turned the sod on the project last year and visited the site last week to see how work is progressing. The build is due to be complete by December this year and the Centre will be open in the new year (2020).

Speaking on the news, Minister Harris said "I am really pleased to confirm there are now plans in place to deliver diagnostics from the new Primary Care Centre in Bray. The new centre is currently planned to deliver a wide range of services including; GP services, public health nursing, dental, dietetics psychology, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech & language therapy, addiction services, pharmacy and a centre for the Bray Old Folks Association."

"The plan is to make provision during the current building work for the inclusion of X-Ray and Ultra Sound facilities at a later date. This would provide local access to diagnostics that would reduce the need for people in our community to travel to hospitals.

"This is just one of a number of very positive developments for the area in recent months. I was delighted to announce the designation of Bray as the next

town to receive a Jigsaw Mental Health project in April after fantastic community buy in.

"The new GP Out of Hours Service for North Wicklow opened and is serving our whole community and the multimillion euro Wicklow Hospice is on track to open in November 2019.

Investing in our local healthcare infrastructure is a key priority for me so I am really pleased with the progress made to date."

## Sláintecare Team visit Wicklow Primary Care Centre

Minister Simon Harris welcomed Laura Magahy, Executive Director of Sláintecare to Wicklow Primary Care Centre last week.

Speaking as he welcomed the Sláintecare Team to Wicklow, Minister Harris said: "I am delighted that the first of Sláintecare's learning visits, has come to Wicklow Primary Care Centre. It is a fantastic opportunity to see first-hand the excellent work that is taking place here. "As set out in the Oireachtas Sláintecare report, the vision for our future health service is to ensure that everyone has access to the right care, at the right time and in the right place, delivered by the right team. This centre is an example of how that looks in practice. From the Integrated Chronic Disease Care programme activity to the Community Intervention Team, Wicklow Primary Care Centre showcases the benefits that come along with the move toward primary and community care as envisioned by Sláintecare.

"The challenges our health service is facing- similar to other countries, now and into the future- makes this shift all the more pressing. There is overwhelming consensus that a transformation is needed in the way we deliver care and that this must be planned, managed and delivered within a coherent system wide reform programme. With Sláintecare, the ten-year plan for reforming the Irish health service - we driving forward that transformation."

# Register removal process questioned

Cllr Jennifer Whitmore has called for online voter registration to be rolled out in Co. Wicklow. Cllr Whitmore made the request at last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council, where councillors discussed the process and criteria for people being removed from the voting register.

Speaking after last week's meeting, Cllr Whitmore said "In April of this year, a new online voter registration system was made available to voters in Dublin, whereby first-time voters, or those who find they have slipped off the electoral register, could sign up to vote without visiting a Garda station. Voter.ie is a service for the four Dublin local authorities which allows Dubliners to add their names to the Register of Electors, change their address on the register, and amend other details, including citizenship or name.

"However, I question as to why this system is only available to those in Dublin. Currently, in Wicklow, people need to get forms stamped by the Gardaí, and deliver them to WCC in order to get on the Wicklow register.

This process should be a lot simpler - we really need to make it as easy as possible for people to register to vote and to participate in elections.

"In fact, each time there is an election, many people are disappointed to find out that they are not registered. I have asked today that Wicklow County Council write to the Minister of State for Local Government and Electoral Reform, John Paul Phelan, to expand the current Dublin-based system to include Wicklow County. If it's possible to do in Dublin, I don't understand how it's not possible in Wicklow.

At last week's meeting, Cllr Steve Matthews requested a report on the process for how the register is filled and how and why people are



Cllr Jennifer Whitmore

removed from it.

Director of Services Tom Murphy explained that there are 30 field-workers around the county working to inform people who are being removed from the register, but that ultimately it is the responsibility of the citizen to check the register.

"The field workers will call to the house two or three times, and leave a form if there is no answer," he said. "We

don't remove anyone without first advising them in writing. We get no joy in removing people from the register, but we have to operate within the parameters set by the Department."

Cllr Joe Behan said that "there are people who claim they have been removed from the register without notice. We should adopt a new policy of not taking people off the register unless less we get a written request from them to do so."

Cllr Edward Timmins said this was flawed as "people won't bother doing that". He suggested instead that people be informed after they have been taken off the register, as this would have more immediacy than informing them beforehand.



Harry and Eoe Phelan and Zach Cox are pictured at the Taste of Wicklow in the Abbey Grounds, Wicklow Town

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Aaron Kelly and Jack Furlong are pictured with Wexford captain Lee Chin and the Leinster Hurling Championship trophy during a stop at Arklow Train Station, after Wexford beat Kilkenny in the Leinster Hurling Final

## Wicklow contributes to Ireland's best ever battery recycling figures

WEEE Ireland, Ireland's largest electrical and battery recycling scheme, surpassed national targets once again, collecting a total 36,131 tonnes of e-waste and 856 tonnes of waste batteries for recycling in 2018.

The scheme's annual report, published in conjunction with its AGM this week, also revealed the people of Wicklow proved themselves to be avid recyclers once again, contributing to Ireland's highest-ever average of 10.2kg of e-waste collected per capita. Wicklow contributed almost 9kg per person, nearly twice that of Kildare.

As the country prepares for the roll out of the 2019 Climate Action Plan, WEEE Ireland are proud that their 2018 recycling efforts contributed to a saving of equivalent of 220,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions as compared with the same items being diverted to landfill - the equivalent of 865 million kilometres driven by passenger vehicles, or the annual carbon consumption of 4,398 hectares of

trees. Among the items recycled were an estimated 3.2 million lamps and light bulbs, 195,000 televisions and monitors, and 13 million small appliances. 48% of the e-waste recycled was large household appliances such as dishwashers, ovens and washing machines, which can be returned to retailers for free recycling upon delivery of new appliances. This is a truly green story as WEEE recycling activity happens close to home. WEEE Ireland supports indigenous recycling facilities with WEE-LABEX certified recycling partnerships.

The report also outlines WEEE Ireland's plans for the future, managing a new generation of emerging technologies such as PV panels, EV and hybrid batteries in the transition

towards a more circular and low carbon economy.

Commenting on the best year yet for WEEE Ireland, Leo Donovan, CEO of WEEE Ireland said: "We are extremely proud of these results and want to thank every person who recycled even one item of e-waste. While the 2018 report sets new e-waste recycling records, we cannot become complacent. We will only achieve long-term change and benefits for the environment if we continue to manage our e-waste responsibly. Maintaining the 65% collection rate in 2019 and beyond means WEEE Ireland must collect 12% more e-waste in the next year. Everyone can play their part in achieving this national target by recycling their WEEE, waste batteries and lighting

equipment for free at their nearest Local Authority Recycling centre and participating electrical retailers."

On foot of these positive recycling results, WEEE Ireland is also calling on the people of Wicklow to join the search for a 2019 WEEE Champion at this year's Pakman Awards. Open to individuals, businesses, schools and community groups, the Pakman Awards showcase the environmental champions who are shaping Ireland's future. The WEEE Champion Award recognises those who can demonstrate the extra steps they have taken to increase electrical take-back for recycling and increase awareness of the need to recycle this waste stream.

### Over 200 volunteers help clean Wicklow's coastline

Twenty-seven tonnes of marine litter was removed from Irish beaches and coastlines during Clean Coasts Week 2019, which ran from Saturday, 1st June to Sunday, 9th June.

Entire communities hosted beach clean-ups and celebrated the Irish coastline with fun activities based around the water, all of which aimed to get people more engaged with the coast. Events included free beach yoga classes, poc fada, kayaking, seaweed workshops and plogging (the Scandinavian trend of picking up litter while jogging) to just name a few.

Over the course of the week, in Wicklow, 12 registered clean-ups took place, with 221 volunteers taking part in the initiative.

Coca-Cola Clean Coasts Week encourages the whole country to protect and celebrate Ireland's beautiful coastline, hosting events all over Ireland with the help of some community spirit. The aim is to engage and empower people and communities to protect our precious coastal resources and appreciate everything our coastline has to offer.

Michael John O'Mahony, Director of Environmental Education at An Taisce said: "With almost over 250 events taking place all over the country with the help of 5,450 volunteers, Coca-Cola Clean Coasts Week 2019 has been one of our most successful yet. The week saw entire communities coming together to have fun and work together in taking care of their local beaches and coastlines. Everyone was motivated to help prevent the long term negative impact of marine litter, taking pride in looking after the scenic shorelines in their area. I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who got involved, and particularly give recognition to the dedicated volunteers who work hard all year round in protecting and preserving Ireland's coasts."

## Greystones excluded from charging point installations

No electric vehicle charging point will be installed in Greystones in the new round of nationwide installations, despite an online petition with almost 1,000 signatures.

The news came in a reply received by Cllr Jennifer Whitmore from the Minister for Environment and Climate Action Richard Bruton.

Cllr Whitmore, co-chair of Wickow County Council's Climate Action and Biodiversity SPC, expressed her disappointment, saying "many people have been asking me when an EV charging point will be installed in Greystones. In response I arranged an online petition and received almost 1,000 names. Earlier this month I wrote to the Minister for Environment and Climate Action to ask that he direct the ESB to install an EV charging point in the Greystones District as part of the €20m funding roll-out for charging points across the country.

"Unfortunately, the response was unsatisfactory, in fact absurd when you consider the demand is clearly there and while charging points exist in other nearby

localities it looks like there are no plans to install any EV charging point in the Greystones District in the near future. Meanwhile other counties are leading the way including Dun Laoghaire, Rathdown and Fingal where on-street chargers have already been installed.

"Funding is limited outside of the Climate Action Fund within the Department. To maximise the few options that currently exist I have been engaging with local businesses to see if they are interested in getting EVs installed as part of the Better Energy Communities Scheme which supports community-based partnerships which can involve local businesses, enterprises and Local Authorities. I will also continue to engage with Wicklow County Council to see how best we can improve the much needed EC charging infrastructure within the town.

"Ultimately, if the Minister was serious with his Climate Action brief he would see that in order to encourage people to make the switch districts like Greystones must have sufficient charging capacities for EVs particularly as Greystones continues to expand."

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# Mortgage distress hope as Wicklow scheme limit raised to €395,000

Families in mortgage distress in Wicklow have been given fresh hope after the county's upper housing valuation limit for the mortgage-to-rent scheme was significantly increased to €395,000.

This €30,000 rise from the previous mark allows many homeowners in unsustainable mortgage debt to now qualify as part of the expanded scheme which became operational last week.

It will allow those previously above the upper ceiling limit of €365,000 the opportunity to seek reassessments of their cases.

However, the upper limit on valuation for apartments stays at the same level of €310,000, the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government announced.

A total of 826 households in Wicklow were in mortgage arrears for over two years at the end of 2018, according to the Central Bank, while over 630 of those had been in arrears for at least five years.

The CEO of mortgage-to-rent operator Home For Life, Paul

Cunningham, said the decision to introduce a more realistic upper threshold showed a commitment to finding solutions for as many of the estimated 25,000 families in serious mortgage arrears in the State as possible.

"This sends a message out to those in financial trouble that there is a way back and by increasing the threshold, the Government is showing it believes mortgage-to-rent is a scheme that can work for all sides," said Mr. Cunningham.

Well-known homeless champion, Fr Peter McVerry, described the expansion as a step in the right direction.

"This is a small step because in my view mortgage-to-rent should be expanded to include most unsustainable mortgages. I would include in that the 12,000 buy-to-let mortgages of two or more

years in arrears," he said.

"I believe that alongside the current increase in house value thresholds there should be a rise in the income limits which apply to mortgage-to-rent."

Minister of State for Special Responsibility for Housing and Urban Development, Damien English, said the changes would enable more properties to qualify for the scheme.

The Minister also welcomed the rise in the number of mortgage-to-rent cases completing.

"This confirms that the scheme is a good solution to unsustainable mortgage arrears and one that is being recognised as such by the borrowers," said Minister English.

The government's mortgage-to-rent scheme aims to keep owners with unsustainable debt in their current homes debt-free as

long-term tenants of their local authority.

As a mortgage-to-rent operator, Home For Life works with homeowners, lenders and the local authority to avoid the upheaval of moving families away from schools and friends they have formed in their locality.

Under the scheme, a property is sold to Home For Life and then leased back to the State through the local authority which, in turn, sublets the house or apartment back to the homeowner.

The homeowner pays an affordable income-based rent to their local authority.

As part of the scheme, the local authority would then undertake to provide for the ongoing long-term housing needs of the applicant and other eligible residents of the property for as long as their housing need exists.

HFL works with all banks and funds and can facilitate properties irrespective of location or condition.



Kate Brasier, Aoife Nagle, Ella Murphy, and Kara Murphy at the Taste of Wicklow in the Abbey Grounds, Wicklow Town.

## Property prices rise by €9,000 in past year

Property prices in Wicklow have risen by €9,000 in the last year, according to the latest MyHome.ie Property Report.

The report for Q2 2019 shows that the median asking price for a property in the county now stands at €329,000. This was up 2.8% on this time last year when they stood at €320,000. This increase all came in the last quarter after four consecutive quarters unchanged.

This is the highest property prices in the county have been since standing at €339,000 in Q4 2010.

The rise in prices was reflected in the asking price for a 3-bed semi-detached house in the county, which were up 1.7% in the quarter from €317,000 to €322,500. This contributed to an annual increase of 9.3% with prices for this house type €27,500 ahead of where they were this time last year at €295,000.

Prices for this house type are now at their highest level since they stood at €325,000 in Q4 2009.

Meanwhile, the asking price for a 4-bed semi-detached house in Wicklow was up 13.7% in the last quarter from €382,500 to €435,000. This contributed to an annual increase of 17.6% with prices for this house type now €65,000 ahead of where they were this time last year at €370,000.

The number of properties for sale in Wicklow on MyHome.ie jumped by 14.4% in the last quarter and was up 6.4% on this time last year.

The average time for a property to go sale agreed in the county after being placed up for sale now

stands at five months.

The author of the report, Conall MacCoille, Chief Economist at Davy, said that while the price falls may fuel fears of a more damaging downturn, the reason for the price falls this time round were as a result of increased regulation.

"The current slowdown in price inflation is largely due to the Central Bank's lending rules and stretched affordability. These factors are preventing the latent housing demand from translating into rampant house price

inflation fuelled by rising leverage on mortgage loans." Ireland's economy continues to perform well and the property market will continue to be underpinned by high employment and wage growth. While the economy has been driven by strong foreign direct investment, export growth and a slow rebound among indigenous companies, the recovery in homebuilding is still in its infancy," he said.

Angela Keegan, Managing Director of MyHome.ie, said the fact

that we are seeing more transactions, more properties on the market and more sustainable price increases were all positives for prospective buyers.

"The environment for buyers is becoming much more favourable, with 22,600 homes listed for sale in June 2019 on MyHome, up 4.5% on the same period of 2018. The improvement is especially marked in Dublin, with 5,400 homes listed for sale on MyHome - up 9% on last year.

## Arklow added to Rent Pressure Zones

Arklow Local Electoral Area has now been designated a Rent Pressure Zone. An announcement of 19 new RPZs around the country was made last week following a change of criteria from the Residential Tenancies Act.

In an RPZ, rent increases are limited to a maximum of 4% each year. It applies to new and existing tenancies.

Rent Pressure Zones are located in parts of the country where rents are highest and rising, and where households have the greatest difficulty finding affordable accommodation. They are intended to moderate the rise in rents in these areas and create a stable and sustainable rental market that allows landlord and tenants to plan financially for their future.

Bray and Wicklow were designated RPZs in January 2017, and Greystones was added

in September of 2017. Speaking last week, John Brady TD said that Arklow's inclusion is "too little, too late" for many.

"The rent index for Q1 of 2019, published by the RTB today, indicates that the standardised average rent is now €1,169 per month, an annual increase of 8.3%. The standardised average rent for Wicklow has reached €1,210 per month, an increase of 8.5% per year.

"Despite rents skyrocketing across Wicklow, only Arklow has been included in the nineteen new rent pressure zones announced today. This is welcome for Arklow but

fails to address rising rents everywhere else in the County. In areas of Wicklow that were previously included in rent pressure zones landlords are terminating leases stating the property is to be sold. The property is then subsequently re-let with a higher rent.

"The RTB shows that rental inflation is highest in highest in areas outside the Greater Dublin Area showing an increase of 7.5% per year. The Minister has finally decided to make changes to how the RPZs are designated on foot of, as the Minister states, 'rents rising unsustainably' outside of RPZs.

"Worryingly he also confirms that these

rent increases were 'anticipated'. Why did the Minister wait for more than two years to include these areas in the RPZ legislation and act to dampen down rents instead of letting them rise to increasingly unaffordable levels?

"This is more an admission of negligence than failure from the Minister today. He knowingly facilitated unsustainable rent rises. It is not good enough. The Minister is failing to protect renters. He must introduce an immediate rent freeze and a refundable, one-month tax credit for renters to help ease the burden a little. We also need to see the urgent roll out of affordable cost rental schemes."



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the following posts.

Panels may be formed from which future vacancies may be filled.

- **PERMANENT ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER**  
REF: 19/2019 Salary: €27,567 - €44,771 gross per annum includes 2nd LSI
- **PERMANENT ASSISTANT ENGINEER**  
REF: 20/2019 Salary: €38,081 - €59,852 gross per annum includes 2nd LSI

Application Forms and further details can be obtained from Enterprise & Corporate Services at 0404 20159 or by emailing [recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie) and on the Wicklow County Council website [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)

**CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS IS 12 NOON ON THURSDAY 25TH JULY 2019**

Wicklow County Council reserves the right to shortlist candidates in the manner it deems most appropriate.

Wicklow County Council is an Equal Opportunities Employer

Thomas Murphy, Director Of Services  
Enterprise & Corporate Services  
Wicklow County Council  
County Buildings, Wicklow

Phone: 0404 20159  
Fax: 0404 20112  
e-mail: [recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie)



Pictured are Eimear Wixted, Aoife O'Brien, Mary O'Brien, Esther Wixted, and Jess at the Arklow Cancer Support 10th anniversary celebrations.

## Hit and Run incident in Kilmacanogue

Local resident Roisin Mulligan is seeking any information that the public might have after she and her 8-week-old son were involved in a hit and run incident in Kilmacanogue late last month.

Roisin says "The 'accident' occurred on Wednesday June 26th on Bohilla lane approaching Kilmacanogue at 10.40 in the morning. The driver caused extensive damage to my car about €4,000 worth and drove off leaving me and my 8-week-old son inside. My car is a red Kia Ceed Estate.

"His car, a greyish audi estate, would have damage to the driver's side. The

driver was dark haired and I think there was someone in the back, a young male child maybe about 10-12. He has been seen on cctv by the local pub driving erratically after the collision with my car.

"The car had already been reported to the guards for driving erratically in Bray and the Gardai suspect he might have been a drink driver as there was other reports of a car matching the grey Audi estate description before he crashed into me. It was a terrifying experience."

If anyone has any information about the car or driver, they are asked to contact the Gardai or Roisin at rmulliga@tcd.ie.

### Wicklow Mountains National Park

Events at Wicklow Mountains National Park are currently published on a month-by-month basis.

If you wish to receive notifications by email of upcoming events, email [wickloweducationcentre@chg.gov.ie](mailto:wickloweducationcentre@chg.gov.ie). All events are free of charge, but there is a parking charge at the Upper Lake car park. Please leave your dogs at home.

# Calls for more investment in youth work

The National Youth Showcase entitled 'Youth Work Changes Lives' took place in the Mansion House, Dublin recently. Young people from Wicklow joined hundreds of other young people representing every constituency in Ireland to celebrate the value, diversity and vitality of youth work in Ireland.

A key message emerging from the day was that hundreds of thousands of young people and their communities take part in and benefit from youth work, and that we need to sustain and increase funding for youth work to meet the needs of our growing youth population.

The event - organised by the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) - and addressed by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr Katherine Zappone, T.D. gave young people from around Ireland the opportunity to speak directly to public representatives and share with them first-hand what they do, what they learn and the benefits of youth work for them and their local communities.

Speaking at the event, Mary Cunningham, Director of the NYCI said: "This event showcases the exceptional quality of youth work happening throughout Ireland and celebrates the contribution of

young people to Irish society and our local communities."

"The youth work sector benefits over 380,000 young people each year, supported by the efforts of 1,400 professional staff and 40,000 passionate volunteers, and yet much of this good work goes largely unnoticed.

That's why today's event 'Youth Work Changes Lives' is so important.

"It is really important that young people - particularly at grassroots level - get the chance to reach out and engage with local politicians, TDs, Senators and Councillors. It will also provide young people with the opportunity to call on their local politicians to support increased investment in youth work in the upcoming budget."

"When politicians hear, see and experience the contribution and value of youth work in their local communities, particularly when expressed by young people themselves, it sends a very powerful message



Pictured at the National Youth Council of Ireland Showcase was John Brady TD with Hannah Leonard from Spun Out Wicklow.

that this work is worth supporting and funding," Ms Cunningham.

The event included over 300 young people at 39 stands each representing their constituency

and meeting their local politicians. There were also interviews with young people who shared powerful experiences of how youth work has changed their lives.



Pictured at the National Youth Council of Ireland Showcase was Pat Casey TD with Hassan Abdullaahimur, Fiona Creedon, Anglean, Michal Swiergochi, Tony Xue, Hannah Leonard and Mohammad Abdullaahimur from East Wicklow Youth Service Crosscare. Pic: Gary Ashe



### COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

#### PROVISION OF IMPROVED CYCLING FACILITIES & TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES ON PUTLAND ROAD, BRAY BETWEEN THE RAILWAY BRIDGE AND THE MEATH ROAD JUNCTION

Wicklow County Council, in exercise of the powers conferred on it under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994, hereby gives notice of its intention to provide the following:

- A raised table at Meath Road - Putland Road Junction with zebra crossings on Putland Road.
- A one way shared lane (cycling; motor traffic) southbound with a parking protected contra - flow cycletrack between Meath Road Junction and the Railway Bridge.

Plans and particulars of the scheme will be available for inspection at the offices of Wicklow County Council, Station Road, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow and Bray Municipal District Civic Offices, Main Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow during office hours Monday to Friday, excluding Bank Holidays for a period from Thursday 11th July 2019 to Friday 9th August 2019 inclusive. Also available to view on [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)

Submissions and observations with respect to the proposed scheme may be made in writing to Transportation, Water and Emergency Services, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Station Road, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow on or before 5pm on Friday 9th August 2019.

Allyson Minion,  
Administrative Officer,  
Transportation, Water and Emergency Services,  
County Buildings, Station Road,  
Wicklow, Co. Wicklow.  
Email: [roadtran@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:roadtran@wicklowcoco.ie)

# Work to start on new Wicklow Library

**Wicklow Town's new library moved a step closer last week with the signing of a contract for the construction work on transforming the old bank building.**

The former Ulster Bank building on the town's Main Street has been sitting idle for a number of years and was purchased in 2017 by Wicklow County Council as the location for a new library and County Archives.

Contracts for the construction phase of the development were signed on Monday July 1st by Frank Curran, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, O'Connell Mahon, Architects has been appointed to lead up this project.

A plan has been developed for the conversion of the six storey building to a public library along with Wicklow County Archives and Local Studies was prepared by O'Connell Mahon Architects. Construction will be carried out by Byrne and Byrne Ltd of

Bunclody.

It is anticipated that the building element will take approximately 12 months to complete. Allowing for fit out and stocking, it is hoped that the new library will open to the public in late summer/early autumn of 2020.

Welcoming the contract signing, Mr Curran said: "The new library and archive will be a centre of excellence for the town and county. The County Archives and Local Studies will add to tourist numbers and complement Wicklow Gaol. I want to acknowledge the generous financial assistance received from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government (URDF Funding) and the Department of Rural & Community Development (Library funding)." Cllr Irene Winters,

Cathaoirleach, Wicklow County Council, stated: "The people of Wicklow town have always been avid users of the local library. A new library and archive will ensure an annual footfall of 150,000, which will have a knock-on effect for other businesses in Wicklow town".

The new building will consist of: Salthouse Lane entrance - Local Studies; Upper basement - Archives; Ground floor, Main Street - Books and items for loan; 1st floor - Books and items for loan; 2nd floor - Study area, computers, magazines and Community Room; 3rd floor - Art gallery and exhibition area.

The drawings and plans for the project may be viewed at the current Wicklow library, at Market Square.



The signing of the contract for construction work on Wicklow Town's new library, at County Buildings

# Tenders invited for Bray Harbour project

**Bray Harbour Joint Development Committee (BHJDC) has welcomed the news that tenders have been invited to develop a plan to improve and develop the facilities at Bray Harbour.**

BHJDC consists of elected members from Bray Municipal District Council, council officials, and representatives of a wide range of harbour users, and was formed in May 2017 with the objective of "Developing options and making recommendations for max-

imising the potential of Bray Harbour as a centre for water based leisure and commercial activity and as an amenity for all the people".

The tender process, which closes in August, invites tenders from suitably qualified consultants in the marine sector to

carry out detailed surveys, report on the options available to protect the harbour from storm conditions, and to look into options to provide additional berthing facilities, including the possibility of providing a short-term drop on/drop off berth for a small passenger vessel

plying between different harbours within an hour or so of Bray. The funding for this exploratory work was approved by members of Bray Municipal District Council in 2018.

Cathaoirleach Steven Matthews, who also acts as vice-chairperson of BHJDC said "I am

delighted that we are now seeking tenders from consultants to develop detailed plans for our harbour. Bray Harbour is an amenity that most seaside towns would be extremely envious of, and is in urgent need of improvement and development so that we can maximise the potential of this resource for everyone in our community. I would like to thank the council officials who have worked so hard to get this far, and look forward to seeing this project move on to the next stage."

Ger Crowley, chairperson of the Bray Harbour Action Group, whose lobbying led to the formation of the BHJDC also welcomed the announcement, saying "The harbour users who I represent are pleased to note that Wicklow County Council are planning to engage consultants to develop a plan for Bray Harbour. This sadly neglected resource is in urgent need of investment and has the potential to transform Bray into a town which embraces its coastline, instead of turning its back on it."



Bray Harbour

# Go-ahead for improved visitor access at Glendalough

**Wicklow County Council has approved new visitor access plans for Laragh-Glendalough. The decision was made at last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council.**

The council first assessed the current visitor access infrastructure and deemed it to be insufficient. They discussed six different locations which are currently deemed 'difficult' for visitors to access and will need an infrastructure improvement: the area near the junction at the Laragh-Glendalough Green, Lynham's Junction, the junction at 'McCoy's Great Gas' petrol-station, at the Wicklow Gap junction, visitor centre entrance, and Glendalough village.

The council's discussion on the need for an improvement in these visitor-access infrastructures stems from a report on the Laragh-Glendalough area commissioned by Wicklow County Council.

The overall aim of the works is to improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians, facilitate the establishment of Laragh as a tourism area, minimise and slow traffic, and create a public realm space for people to enjoy. Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Frank Curran said the widening of Wicklow Gap junction will make access easier for buses.

Glendalough based TD Pat Casey spent 10 years campaigning to get 'Part 8' of the major Laragh-Glendalough Traffic Access Plan initiated. Deputy Casey has described the traffic congestion in the area as being at crisis levels.

Mr Curran, explained that the area will be

*By Sam Doherty*

improved in different phases, this being phase 1. A report on the area was delivered to councillors in a long slide presentation, which included detailed ordinance survey maps.

Cllr John Snell said the works to improve traffic congestion were "vital".

Cllr Mary Kavanagh expressed concern about the eventual refurbishment of the visitor centre, which will be Phase 3 of the project.

"I have a horrible feeling in the put of my stomach that it will lose some of its character, the last thing we want is to see it glamorised," she said.

# Restricted access to Derrybawn Bridge

**Notice has been given by Derrybawn House that Derrybawn Bridge remains open to all light traffic and pedestrians.**

It has been advised that vehicle traffic has been restricted to that of not more than 5 ton gross weight and 10kmh. This means that cars and vans under this weight have unrestricted access to the Bridge.

Pedestrians are not affected by this limitation and have full access to the Green Road at all times. Bollards have been placed at the entrance to the Bridge to ensure that this limit is adhered to and thereby ensure that one and all are able to enjoy this historical structure in safety.

Derrybawn Estate stated "We appreciate that this is the height of the tourist season but we are unfortunately subject to the depth and flow of the river which is at its lowest at this time of the year. We apologize for any inconvenience caused."

# Tulfarris completes €6 million renovation

**International hospitality management company, PREM Group have completed the first stage of its renovation programme at Tulfarris Hotel and Golf Resort in Blessington.**

The group purchased the 90-bedroom hotel in 2016 and since then have already spent over €6 million on the property to return the luxury 18th century Manor House and its surrounding grounds to their former glory. The initial renovation programme saw 16 new bedrooms being added to the Wicklow property while the bridal suite, foyer, drawing and library rooms of the Manor House have been tastefully transformed.

Interior designer, Julie Goggin oversaw the design of the property to include a revamp of the the hotel lobby and Elk Bar.

Further to this Architects Moloney O 'Beirne were commissioned to design a state of the art clubhouse for the property. A major part of the investment has focused on the main entrance, grounds and golf course.

Jim Murphy, CEO of PREM Group said "The renovations that we have completed have breathed new life into this resort. The works have been carefully conceived by our architects and development team who were always mindful to preserve the historical integrity of the original house. The new rooms and clubhouse have been added in a very respectful way in order to create clear distinctions between the old and the new. We will now be able to offer our discerning customers a world class product and we are delighted with the result".

The renovations at Tulfarris Hotel and Golf Resort are just one of many capital projects being carried out by PREM Group, who also operate more than 38 properties throughout Ireland, Belgium, the Netherlands and the UK.





Pictured are Frances, Lucy and Niamh Sweeney at the Arklow Cancer Support 10th anniversary celebrations.

## Wicklow contestant vying to be named Miss Universe Ireland 2019

Wicklow native, model Qichen Hu, is in the final group of finalists from Leinster competing for the title of Miss Universe Ireland 2019.

Each is vying for the coveted title of Miss Universe Ireland 2019, the crown of which is currently held by the 2018 reigning champion, Grainne Gallanagh. Diversity is celebrated at Miss Universe Ireland and the final 30 for 2019 embody the contests motto of 'Confidently Beautiful' perfectly with women of varied shapes, sizes, backgrounds and ethnicities coming together for one special night on August 1st in the Mansion House.

This will be the third year that Miss Universe Ireland is under new management. Director of Miss Universe Ireland, Brittany Mason says the core objec-

tive is to cultivate job opportunities and to empower Irish women to become leaders in the community creating positive social change.

When asked what she is looking for in a representative, Mason replied, "What we want is a leader that will serve as a voice for the nation and the ideals of the modern day Irish woman. Not only will she represent our fashion and beauty sponsors but she will be an advocate for our charitable partners. She must have a clear understanding of the job and be committed to the integrity of the Miss Universe brand. She will serve as a goodwill Ambassador for Ireland celebrating our culture on a global level and empowering women in leadership to become more socially active in Irish communities."

The final contest will take place on August 1st in the Round Room at the Mansion House.



Wicklow's Miss Universe contestant, Qichen Hu

## ARKLOW IS IRELAND'S BEST KEPT LARGE TOWN

Arklow has been named Ireland's Best Kept Large Town in an All-Island competition. The all-island competition sees the best towns in the TidyTowns competition compete against their counterparts in Northern Ireland's Best Kept competition.

The results of this year's competition were announced on Tuesday 25th June at an awards ceremony in Farmleigh House in Dublin.

Commenting on the awards, Minister for Rural and Community Development, Michael Ring TD, congratulated this year's winners and said the awards showed the pride people have in their own communities.

"It shows how local volunteers take ownership of their surroundings and work to improve them, for both now and into the future," he said.

Ms Doreen Muskett, President of the Northern Ireland Amenity Council,

the body that organises the Best Kept Awards, said the competition was designed to reward those who take pride in their communities. She also paid tribute to those who work to make their surroundings a nice place to work, live and play in.

Cllr Pat Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District, in congratulating Arklow stated: "It is a magnificent achievement for Arklow to win the award of Best Kept Large Town on the island of Ireland and it is with great pride that I congratulate and thank the staff of Arklow Municipal District, Tidy Towns Committee and all

the local volunteers whose tremendous work and commitment over many years which has resulted in this significant recognition for our town."

John Brady TD has said that Arklow becoming Ireland's Best Kept Large Town is a huge achievement that's down to hard work, commitment and determination by a large team and they deserve a massive congratulations and well done.

Deputy Brady said "It is absolutely fantastic news that Arklow won the Best Kept Large Town category in the Supervalue Tidy Towns Best Kept Town competi-

tion for 2019.

"Arklow was up against towns from right across Ireland and for the town to win the competition was down to all the hard work, commitment and determination that has gone into keeping the town in pristine condition. Full credit has to go to Arklow Tidy Towns, the staff of Arklow Municipal District, the staff on Community Employment schemes and all the other volunteers that help to make Arklow a great town."

Bantry in Co. Cork, meanwhile, scooped the awards for the Best Kept Town and Best Kept Small Town.

## Two Wicklow towns in the running to be crowned Ireland's most enterprising town

Two Wicklow towns among the nominees for the 2019 National Enterprise Town Awards which bring business and community groups together to showcase the spirit of enterprise in their local area.

A total awards prize fund of almost €200,000 will be shared by 41 towns including the overall national winner and the winner of the "Rising Star" category.

Rathdrum and Ashford will be up against towns from across the country which have been put forward by local authorities or recommended by the public. Judges will visit all nominated places during August and September and winners will be announced at a gala awards ceremony in December.

Since the inaugural National Enterprise Town Awards in 2016, 104 towns, urban areas and villages across the country will have shared €500,000 in funding to invest in their community. Previous award winners highlight the main benefits of

participating in the awards as increased community spirit, a boost to local tourism, and growth of new business.

The number of nominees has grown from 17 in 2016 to 79 this year and the competition is open to small, medium and large towns as well as city villages/urban areas.

## Buckley secures Bronze medal at European Olympic Games

Bray boxer Regan Buckley secured a Bronze medal at the 2019 European Olympic Games in Minsk.

Buckley's 4-1 split decision win over Spain's Martin Molina Salvador in the Men's Light Fly (49kg) quarter-final, saw him go through to face Armenian Artur Hovhannisyanyan in the semi-final, where he lost on a 3-2 split.

Buckley remained positive following the defeat, taking to facebook to post: "What an experience it's been and I'm proud to be bringing a medal back to Ireland. I will only improve and progress from here and I think I've made my mark on the international scene."

Buckley is from St Teresa's Boxing Club on the Boghall Road in Bray. Earlier this year he was crowned Under-22 National Champion in the 49kg weight division. He has previously won national titles at youth and intermediate level.



Bray boxer Regan Buckley.

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# BRAY LAKERS

## NEW HOME FOR LAKERS

Lakers new facility in Bray was recently officially opened by Minister for Health Simon Harris

After a fire destroyed their original premises last October, Lakers - a social, recreational and sports club for children and adults with intellectual disabilities - moved into the Old Schoolhouse on Eglinton Road.

Lakers' beginnings go back thirty years to 1989, when a small group of parents decided something should be done about the lack of sports or social clubs for their children with intellectual disabilities.

What started with a small number of members, managed by parents who volunteered their time and skills, has grown into a club that now offers over 50 weekly classes, across

32 different activities, for its members. The club provides a support network for over 400 members and their families. With the help of its 160 volunteers, Lakers members take part in on-site activities, such as arts & crafts, dance, drama, computer skills, cookery, healthy living, music and music therapy, keep fit classes and pottery. The club also works with local facilities for its members, such as golf clubs, leisure centres and sailing, ski and rugby clubs.

Lakers' new club facility was officially opened by Minister for Health Simon Harris on Wednesday, 26th June.



Lakers team and staff members at the official opening of the new premises. Pic: Joe McQuillan

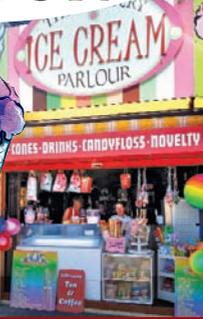
Speaking at the event, Minister for Health Simon Harris T.D., said:

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

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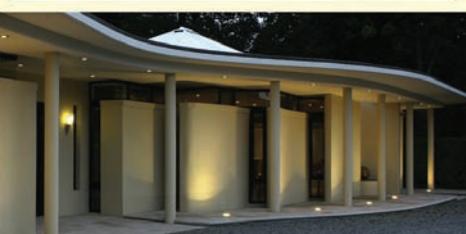
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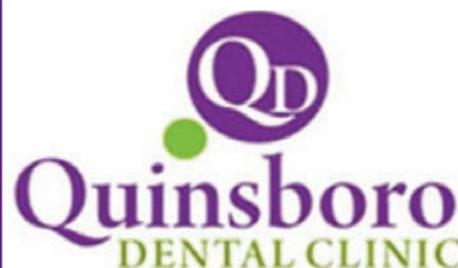
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aoife.flynnkennedy@gmail.com

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Tel: 085 8161154



# BRAY LAKERS

for their members, the Lakers team turned that terrible incident into a positive. The club is back open seven-days a week and they now offer over 50 weekly classes, in 32 different activities. Lakers members can also boast over 230 medals and, no doubt, that figure will now keep growing. I am honoured to be here today, to officially reopen Lakers and I wish the Lakers team and their members every continued success.”

Lakers experienced heartbreak in the early



Minister for Health Simon Harris samples some cake at the official opening of Lakers' new premises. Pic: Joe McQuillan



Neringa Dzidolikaite, Steve McGuinness, Peter Prunty, Mathew Davis, and Derri Keating and Claire Wright at the official opening of Lakers' new premises. Pic: Joe McQuillan

hours of October 5th last year, when their premises of 11-years, was decimated by a fire. Spreading throughout the building, the fire also destroyed the club's four minibuses, which were an integral life-line to the club's day-to-day operations. Speaking about the impact of the fire, Lakers Chairman, Fergus Finlay, said: "There was utter devastation felt right

**Cllr. Joe BEHAN**  
INDEPENDENT

**Best Wishes to Bray Lakers**



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**Best Wishes to Bray Lakers**

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# BRAY LAKERS



Minister for Health Simon Harris meets Walter Pallas at the official opening of Lakers' new premises. Pic: Joe McQuillan

across the wider Lakers community, last October. Unfortunately, there are little or no social, recreational or sports services provided for people with intellectual disabilities, outside those set-up by private organisations and charities. Without Lakers, our members would have nothing - nowhere to go for social interaction and nowhere to learn and develop new skills. If Lakers ceased to exist, the impact of removing that support network would be detrimental to members and their families.

"As difficult as it was after the fire, we all resolved that we would build something much better than we had for our members. The community rallied around us in the most magnificent way. Our staff team worked around the clock to get activities up and running again, in a variety of begged and bor-

rowed locations, with- in days. Because of the generosity of the Presbyterian communi- ty in Bray, we were able to move into a new and better premis- es quickly, and we have devoted all our efforts to making that new premises as mem- ber-friendly as possi-

ble. A phoenix rose from the ashes - and that couldn't have hap- pened without the magic that Lakers inspires in all of us. We are eternally grate- ful to those who came to our aid, when we needed it most."

Following the fire, the Presbyterian

Church in Bray offered Lakers the use of an old schoolhouse - now home to their new premises on Eglinton Road in Bray. Through funding received, Lakers were able to renovate the school- house and also replace two of the mini- buses lost in the fire -



Lakers Chairman Fergus Finlay with Peirce Cahill at the official opening of Lakers' new premises. Pic: Joe McQuillan

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# BRAY LAKERS



Minister for Health Simon Harris with Patrick Hardigan and Gary Burton at the official opening of Lakers' new premises. Pic: Joe McQuillan



Francis Mooney and Daniel Ryan celebrating the official opening



**MINISTER SIMON HARRIS**

**Best wishes to Bray Lakers**

Contact me for advice, support or assistance on any matter  
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Email me at [simon.harris@oireachtas.ie](mailto:simon.harris@oireachtas.ie)

**FINE GAEL**



Lakers Chairman Fergus Finlay speaking at the official opening

enabling members to continue with their sport, social and recreational activities, just months after their future was in doubt. Speaking about the importance of the club, Lakers member Ciara Fagan, said: "Lakers is a happy place, where we do lots of classes, make friends and meet new people. We learn to respect each other there and we never feel alone. I love the choice of activities and I feel safe at the club." Speaking about

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

**BEST WISHES TO BRAY LAKERS**

**LABOUR**

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Best Wishes to all in Bray Lakers

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Keith O'Brien, Paul Keogh, Caroline Bolger, Margaret Duggan, and Declan McCarthy of Greystones first Responders at the Emergency Services Family Fun Day in Greystones.  
Pic: Joe McQuillan

## More than one skin cancer death a week from the construction and farming sector

The Irish Cancer Society has said that almost one in four (23%) of skin cancer deaths in Ireland are from the construction, outdoor and farming industry. The figures have remained stagnant in recent years.

The Society has announced that it has teamed up with the Irish Congress of Trade Unions to urge outdoor workers to be extra vigilant during the summer months, and reduce their risk of skin cancer.

Congress represents 44 unions and approximately 750,000 workers across the country, with around 18% of the membership working in the outdoors.

Announcing the partnership, Kevin O'Hagan, Cancer Prevention Manager with the Irish Cancer Society said, "These figures from the CSO show that in 2016, we had over 60 deaths in Ireland which were related to sun exposure at work. That is more than one death a week. The dangers of skin cancer in these industries have often been neglected, because the risk of accidental death and injury on the job is considered higher and more immediate. However long-term exposure to the invisible hazard of the sun's ultraviolet rays puts outdoor workers at a high risk of skin cancer.

"We are really pleased to be teaming up with the Irish Congress of Trade Unions this summer to encourage employers and employees to take the necessary sun protection behaviours to reduce the number of workers dying from a very preventable cancer.

"Every year in Ireland, it is estimated that almost 12,000 people are diagnosed with skin cancer, and figures show that more men than women were diagnosed. Getting repeated sunburn throughout life increases the risk of skin cancer. Half of all adults experienced sunburn in the last year and a third of men have experienced sunburn while working outdoors, so we are asking people to take the necessary steps to avoid sunburn and to be SunSmart at work."

Congress General Secretary Patricia King added, "We are really pleased to be teaming up with the Irish Cancer Society to raise awareness of skin cancer among outdoor workers. Congress represents over 135,000 people whose work is characterised as being predominantly or occasionally outdoors. This includes union members in sectors such as construction, horticulture, quarrying, postal services, environment, tourism, recreation and education.

"Workers need to take every precaution in protecting their skin while exposed to the sun, and should be supported in doing so by their employers. We would also call on employers to put in place robust policies to ensure that outdoor workers, such as builders, postal workers or fishermen are adequately protected. At a minimum they should be following the Health & Safety Authority guidelines. We would encourage all of our members to ensure they are being SunSmart this summer. It could save a life."

## Keep your pets safe in hot weather

As temperatures rise in Ireland, the ISPCA is sharing some tips and advice to help keep your pets safe during the hot weather.

ISPCA Public Relations Manager Carmel Murray said: "We all love the summer sunshine, but please plan in advance if you are bringing your pet anywhere with you in hot weather ensuring they won't be left in a hot car for any length of time. Avoid walking your dog during intense heat, early morning or evening walks is always best when it's cooler. If the pavement is too hot for your hand, it's too hot for their paws. Always have fresh cool water available and access to shade from the sun".

Carmel added: If your pet is showing signs of severe overheating, move them to a cooler area immediately, spray with cool (not cold) water, and

give a small drink of water and contact your vet. It is important to know the signs of overheating such as increased heart rate with excessive panting and drooling, drowsy or out of sorts, vomiting or diarrhoea".

The ISPCA would like to remind pet owners that 'dogs can die if left in hot cars'. Pet owners often think leaving a window open is sufficient for their pet but this is not enough to prevent heatstroke under intense sunshine. By leaving a dog unattended in a vehicle during hot weather, even for 10 minutes can prove to be fatal.

It is important to always have fresh water available for your pet; refresh and

refill more often than on a normal day and leave extra if you are going out. You can also add ice cubes to your pet's water. Make sure they have access to shade, and keep them indoors in cooler rooms when the heat becomes too extreme.

Ensure you leave out extra water in the shade for cats and wildlife too. If you have a rabbit or small mammals in the garden, keep their living quarters in the shade. You could also partially cover the front of their enclosures as they can heat up very quickly. All caged animals, even if they are indoors, should be kept out of direct sunlight. Keep an eye on aviaries or birdcages, which are near

to a window.

Remember household chemicals and common summer foods can be toxic to pets. If using sunscreen or insect repellent, please ensure the product is labelled as safe for use on pets. If you are unsure about certain products consult your vet. Alcoholic or caffeinated beverages, chocolate, coconut, grapes or raisins, onions, raw meat or excessively salty foods or foods containing the sweetener xylitol can be toxic or cause serious health issues for your pet. Keep them away from your pet during summer barbecues.

If you do witness an animal locked in a car on a hot day, try to establish how long the dog has been

# Warning issued for Wicklow asthma and hayfever sufferers

The Asthma Society of Ireland is warning the 8,417 people who have both asthma and hayfever in Wicklow to take precautions as pollen levels begin to rise.

The Asthma Society has teamed up with Dyson Ireland to launch its Pollen Tracker on asthma.ie. The tracker provides an update of pollen levels across the four provinces each day, and a predictor of the pollen levels for the following day.

Sarah O'Connor, CEO of the Asthma Society of Ireland, said: "For the 300,800 people who have asthma and hayfever, hayfever can be particularly dangerous. Hayfever symptoms are capable of escalating an asthma attack, which in some cases can be fatal. Asthma deaths are rising in Ireland, with one person now dying every six days as a result of their asthma. In addition, people with hayfever experience symptoms which really compromise their quality of life and ability to enjoy the summer months.

With the pollen count predicted to be high over the next few days, we are advising all people who have asthma and hayfever to make sure they take precautions and to follow our "top tips for surviving hayfever season" to ensure they do not suf-

fer a fatal asthma attack. Our free Asthma and COPD Adviceline is also available on 1800 44 54 64 and allows you to speak to a respiratory specialist nurse who is trained in asthma and allergies, who will be able to advise you on managing your condition(s)."

Niamh O'Halloran, who suffered a near fatal asthma attack because of her hayfever, said: "Most of my friends with hayfever experience the itchy watery eyes, runny nose and itchy throat, etc. But for me, as I have asthma and hayfever, symptoms can be a lot more serious. It is essential that I manage my hayfever to ensure it does not lead to a serious asthma attack. In my teenage years, I suffered an asthma attack because of my hayfever which nearly took my life and left me in hos-

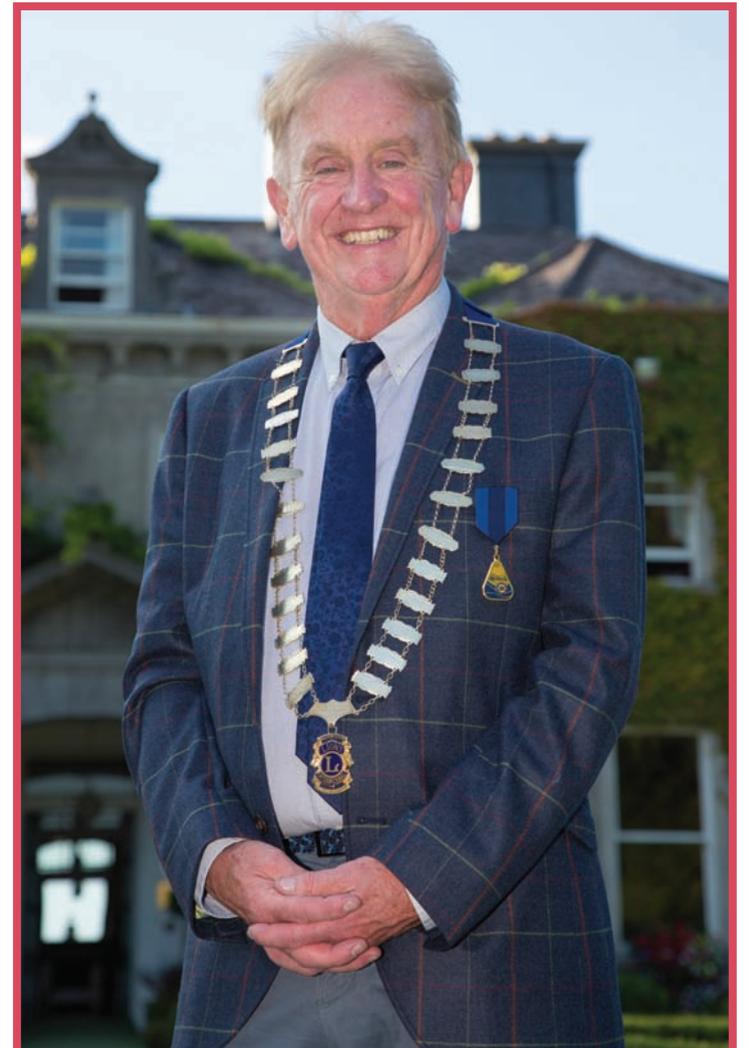
pital for over a week. It was a terrifying experience and I did not know if I was going to make it.

"Today, I make sure to take my anti-histamines, along with all my asthma medications as part of my Asthma Action Plan. Controlling my hayfever is extremely important as it prevents me ending up back in hospital. I find the Asthma Society's Pollen Tracker an excellent tool which allows me to prepare and take precautions on any day when the pollen count will be high."

Dr Marcus Butler, Medical Director of the Asthma Society, said: "Managing asthma becomes more difficult over the summer months as the nice weather brings a long and sharp increase in the pollen count. Research suggests that

up to 80% of people with asthma notice a worsening of asthma symptoms due to allergies such as pollen, as their bodies trigger an allergic reaction. I see a drop in asthma control amongst my allergic asthma patients during hayfever season, which leaves them at risk of a more serious asthma attack. It is vital that all asthma patients with pollen or grass allergy have an Asthma Action Plan and prepare for the hayfever season to limit its effects."

For any questions on managing your, or a family member's asthma and/or COPD, call the Asthma Society's free Joint Asthma and COPD Adviceline on 1800 44 54 64, where you can talk to a trained respiratory nurse about getting your hayfever symptoms in control.



Sean Olohan is the new President of Wicklow Lions Club. Sean is well known locally in Wicklow Town and further afield for his music and fundraising for charity.



# ‘Brewing Sustainably’

‘Catalyst’ is a new eco-friendly coffee shop on Florence Road, in Bray. It was opened in June by three young baristas: Ross Nolan, Nathan Walsh and Luke Gorman.



by Sam Doherty

fee beans behind the counter and ‘Huskee’ cups (so named as they’re made from the husk of a coffee bean) line the shelves.

The beans used by Catalyst are sourced from ‘Imbibe’, a company based in The Millennium Centre, Dolphin’s Barn, just outside Crumlin, in Dublin.

“They’re (Imbibe) very ethical. It’s complete zero-waste coffee delivery. That’s what we are adamant about”, says Nathan.

Everything used in Catalyst is fair trade: the Columbian-Peruvian blend beans are sourced from Café Femenino, a coffee farm in northern Peru run by local women

farmers only. The owners and the packers are all women. These women “all get paid fairtrade prices” from Imbibe.

The owners of Catalyst refer to their business model with Imbibe as ‘conscious capitalism’ meaning that the money gained is for the women who harvest the beans first, and Imbibe and Catalyst second.

Imbibe buys products from, Café Femenino, which is helping these women create their own product, to sell and create their own incomes, in order to gain financial control and decision-making power in what is currently, socio-economically, a male-dominated country.

The Australian-made Huskee cups, a by-product of coffee waste, are a unique feature to Catalyst and have proven to be very popular with customers.

The team at Catalyst don’t see non-disposable compostable cups as the way forward, as although they are designed to break down in an ecologically-safe way, they are often not disposed of properly, “...ending up straight in a normal bin anyway.”

Huskee cups are ‘keep’ cups, a range of reusable coffee cups designed to reduce waste. The husk of a coffee bean is very strong and thermally durable, making them the perfect material for the



Ross Nolan, Nathan Walsh, and Luke Gorman of Catalyst coffee shop

The name of the shop stems from Luke’s passion for science; he is a graduate of the Neuroscience course in U.C.D.

“A catalyst is something that drives a reaction for change, so that’s kind of what we want to do: drive

people to change their plastic-use habits, their eating habits, change their lifestyles, for themselves to be better, for the earth to be better.”

The eco-friendly focus of the coffee shop is evident as soon as you walk in: giant tin-drums of cof-

production of coffee cups.

The delicious beverages sold by Catalyst include Ice-Coffees, sold in beautiful glass jars, which customers can take with them on the go, clean and then return them to the store.

The customers can receive a discount of 0.20 off of their next purchase with Catalyst when they use a Huskee cup thereby “...closing the loop.”

After a month, a Catalyst customer can actually save money, when compared to regularly purchasing cups from larger, more mainstream coffee-chains.

“No one has to be perfect. It’s all about everyone doing a little”, says Ross.

The owners of Catalyst are concerned about the lack of attention to recycling in Bray and the lack of compost facilities: “there’s no brown bins on the road”.

However, they recognise that they need to improve their method of production: “we’re not perfect, we’re not zero-waste, but we try. What we really want to do is be a part of the community in Bray and teach people about the harmful effects of plastic on the environment, we’re showing you, we’re not telling you.”

The crew at Catalyst are keen on offering classic, fresh beverages to their customers, highlighting

their new ‘Nature Juice Machine’ used for making pure, freshly-squeezed orange juice, sold in small glass bottles.

The team at Catalyst are grateful for the support that the people of Bray are continuing to show ; “A

lot of people have been bringing them back, an awful lot of people.”

They repeatedly urge their many customers to demand more of other companies, to make them use recyclable materials

and have their concerns for the environment heard.

They are clearly committed to their cause, to serve coffees and drinks to the people of Wicklow and to keep the surrounding county clean: “we started as we mean to go on.”



We are Catalyst, a small sustainable and eco conscious retail store on in Bray. As well as stocking some great products we serve speciality coffee and treats. We are passionate about good coffee and looking after the environment and hope people can see that when they visit our shop. The very name catalyst means to drive a change or reaction in the body. We hope that we can be this for our society by pushing progressive ideas and making people more environmentally conscious and ethical.

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Delia Barry, Kathleen Kelleher, and Anne Doody at the Greystones Cancer Support annual summer lunch. Pic: John McGowan

## Greystones Cancer Support celebrate 25th Anniversary

Greystones Cancer Support is marking 25 years of Community Cancer Care this year.

Their Annual Summer Lunch at the Glenview Hotel was a special celebration. Niamh Fortune launched her powerful and personal story, *The Aftermath*, in a specially published booklet. In this booklet, Niamh tells of her journey through cancer diagnosis, treatment and survival.

Alan McDonald presented the proceeds of €4,140 from his Santiago de Compostela Camino Walk in May.

Canadh Le Cheile, the GCS singing group, entertained the guests with their talented and enjoyable music. The group was formed, and is led by, Brian Whelan, formerly of The Cyclones.

Canadh Le Cheile will perform at a special concert for Tallaght Cancer Support this month, and will participate in Heritage Week at St. Crispin's Cell in August.

Delia Barry is celebrating her 80th birthday this year, while Minella Seery is celebrating her 90th birthday. Both are wonderful supporters of GCS and were each presented with a basket of flowers to mark their special occasions.

Chairperson of GCS Sonia Walsh said "Special thanks to all who have contributed over the past 25 years to the work of Greystones Cancer Support. The group is a local volun-

tary community cancer support group helping those affected by cancer. It is an honour to be able to offer our wide range of services, thanks to the generosity of the local community."



Frances Browner and Niamh Fortune at the Greystones Cancer Support annual summer lunch. Pic: John McGowan

## Crumlin Hospital staff praised for saving baby boy Billy

Edel Jones from Wicklow has praised the staff in CHI at Crumlin for saving her baby boy, Billy. At six weeks old Billy started having trouble breathing and his parents brought him to the Emergency Department in Crumlin where he was later diagnosed with RSV, a respiratory virus and bronchiolitis.



Billy in Crumlin Hospital

"Billy got so bad that they brought him to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and they put a big mask on to help his breathing," Edel said. "It was like a suction mask all around his little face. Billy didn't really respond to it or get better. They were giving him one more day and said if he didn't respond, they'd have to put him on the ventilator, the life support. It got really bad really quickly. They said he was having such difficulty breathing that he was becoming exhausted and might need the help of the machine to continue. It was so terrifying. I was a mother

for the first time and that alone was scary enough. I didn't know what to do. I didn't know what to say. I didn't know how to react." Just before Billy was put on a ventilator the team got him stabilised to Edel's shock and relief - "We've never been so relieved in our lives. They are remarkable in ICU at keeping you calm. In the middle of your own panic the staff have everything under control and they reassure you. Billy didn't get home for about three weeks in total. After he was moved to the Nazareth Ward he was throwing up his food, so we had to get

that sorted before he was allowed home.

"I'll always remember one particular night a wonderful nurse was taking care of Billy and I wasn't fully asleep, my eyes were just closed, but she thought I asleep and I could hear her talking to him. She was so loving, saying what a great little boy he was. My heart could have burst. I was so grateful because knowing she was there to take care of Billy let me relax, rest and get some sleep. I was so grateful for that."

Once Billy was recovered he got to home, with a follow up appointment scheduled with the hospital to make sure he's doing well.

"I was so happy the day we got to drive out of the hospital and home to Wicklow with our little baby. I was still scared because I was so used to having people around him that knew what was going on, and to reassure me all the time. When we got home we were by ourselves. Every time his breathing got a little bit heavy I started to worry. Crumlin was only a phone call away though, and that was reassuring. We learned

to relax and realise he was okay. He has an appointment in the hospital in about three months for a follow-up. When you're in the hospital you really appreciate the expertise and experience Crumlin offers. There are so many families going through really difficult times. We felt so lucky when we got to take Billy home."

Edel has praised all the staff at Crumlin for supporting her family through one of their

scariest times. "Billy is doing great now and he's drinking more bottles than he ever did. He's sleeping all night too and is in a proper little routine. Thank goodness! We were in hospital for about three weeks but it felt like a lifetime. I'll be forever grateful to the incredible people in there who made my little baby well again."

To get involved in fundraising for sick children visit [cmrf.org/](http://cmrf.org/).



Baby Billy happy and well



Pictured are St. Catherine's pupils James Kavanagh, Alexander Kinne-Coyle and Stephanie Soriano

## Sporting Proud Triathlon returns to Brittas Bay

Dig out the runners, dust off your bike and squeeze into that swimsuit - the countdown has begun to this year's Sporting Proud Triathlon, at Brittas Bay, Saturday, 7th September.

The children from St Catherine's Special School are hoping local people and businesses will get behind their campaign to raise €60,000 through the triathlon to soundproof and insulate their PE Hall, and for other much needed projects on their 'needs-list'.

"Our school in Kilmullen Lane, Newcastle was built 36 years ago of simple block construction with no insulation and certainly no sound proofing. Many of our children are very sensitive to sound and noise just bounces off the walls and is deafening! It's totally unsuitable for children with sensory issues," explained Claire McClean, Chair of the Parent's Association.

"We need to ensure the children are able to play games and do therapy in an environment that caters for their special requirements."

Ms McClean said the PE hall also has no insulation at all, so is sweltering in the summer, freezing in the winter and costs the school a fortune in heating bills.

"The children at St Catherine's have moderate to profound intellectual and physical disabilities and may also have an Autism Spectrum Disorder," said Ms McClean. "These children are very complex and the environment in which they are taught is extremely important to their ability to learn and progress."

St Catherine's Special School has finished up for the summer, but, parents and staff will continue to work over the coming months towards making the Triathlon which is their biggest fundraiser a success.

The Sporting Proud Triathlon has two events: Olympic length: 1.5km swim, 40km cycle, 10km run and a Sprint or Fun event: .75km swim, 20km cycle and 5km run. Entrants can compete as individuals or in teams of 3.

"It's a fun event whether you are a serious athlete or just want to do your bit to help special needs children in our community," said Claire. "Special needs children are amongst the most vulnerable and can be forgotten, but taking part or making a donation to St Catherine's Special School will have a huge positive impact on the children."

For more information on how to support St Catherine's Special School Triathlon Campaign call Claire McLean on 086 087 6143.



Wicklow Town main Street recently saw the opening of the Venue Gallery and its inaugural exhibition 'Catching Light', featuring the work of three Wicklow-based contemporary artists; painter Louise Cherry, print maker Stephanie Sloan, and ceramic artist Cathy Burke. The pop-up gallery, which is open every day until July 21st, brings to Wicklow's main street a beautiful contemporary space, bursting with wonderful art to suit all tastes and budgets. Pictured at the opening are artists Stephanie Sloan, Louise Cherry and Cathy Burke with the crew of work experience helpers; Antonin, Julia, Laura and Juno

# Music in Calary

On Thursday 25th July, Lynda O'Connor (violin) and Ailbhe McDonagh (cello) will perform Jean Baptiste Breval's violin cello duo no 3 in D major, Zoltan Kodaly's Duo for Violin and Cello op.7, Maurice Ravel's Sonata for Violin and Cello, Halvorsen's Pasacaglia and the world premiere of a composition by Ailbhe McDonagh.

Both concerts start at 8pm in Calary Church (Eircode A98 H766). Tickets for both concerts are €18 and €15 for concessions and, for further information or to book tickets, please ring John at (01) 2818146 or email derekneilson@eircom.net.

Lynda O'Connor is in much demand as a soloist, chamber musician and leader of freelance orchestras in Ireland and abroad. She is one of the leading Irish violinists of her generation. Showing early promise, she made her debut appearance at the National Concert Hall, Dublin when she was just four years old. Lynda has collaborated with such wonderful artists as Micha Collins, Richard Watkins, Barry Douglas, Chee Yun Kim, Andreas Diaz, Nobuko Imai, Sharon Shannon, Frankie Gavin and Dr. Carol Leone.

Ailbhe McDonagh performs throughout Ireland and internationally as a soloist and chamber musician. A graduate of the Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY, and the Royal Irish Academy of Music, Dublin, Ireland where she now teaches Cello and Chamber Music, she studied with world-renowned cellists Steven Doane, Nora Gilleese, Aisling Drury-Byrne and William Butt. Ailbhe gave her debut recital with celebrated Irish pianist John O'Connor at the National Concert Hall in Dublin.

## 7th Annual Signal Open takes place next month

The 7th annual Signal Open at Signal Arts Centre will take place in the Signal Arts Centre in Bray from Tuesday 6th August to Sunday 18th August.

Over the last 250 years 'Open Submission' exhibitions have become established as an essential element of Arts infrastructure. They act as one of the most accessible routes for artists to have their work seen by the public and are almost invariably amongst the stepping stones in an artist's career. These exhibitions provide an opportunity for artists to come together as a community to show and sell their work and provide the public with an eclectic insight into what's happening in the arts both locally and nationally.

A founding tenet of Signal Arts Centre is the belief that there is a huge amount of talent that goes unrecognised and that an opportunity should be there for all artists to exhibit their work. The Signal Open is just such an opportunity.

The Signal Open Exhibition is now in its 7th year and has become an annual event in artists' calendars. We have been delighted by the response and the quality of work submitted each year and we are very grateful to all of the artists for their support.

The 7th Annual Signal Open Exhibition takes place at the Signal Arts Centre from Tuesday 6th - Sunday 18th August. The 'Best in Show' winner will be awarded €1,000 and will be announced at the Exhibition Opening on Friday 9th August from 7-9pm.

## Pop-Up Picnic at The Mermaid Theatre

Helium Arts in partnership with Mermaid is inviting you to join them for their Pop Up Picnic on Saturday 20th July at 11am, 1pm and 3pm.



The pop up picnic is a magical, multi-sensory performance engaging all the senses for young children with complex needs and their families

These are free performances designed for a small number of children and their families. Suitable for children aged 5 years and under. Helium Arts' Pop Up Picnic is a magical, multi-sensory performance engaging all the senses for young children with complex needs and their families. 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.

Each performance is designed for a small number of children and their families. Places are limited and must be booked in advance through box office on 01-2724030.

## Metatron's Cube

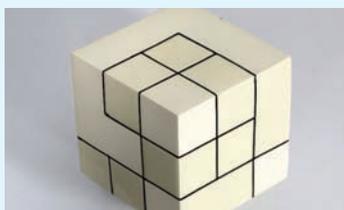
Metatron's Cube, an exhibition by Mary Conroy, will be held in the Signal Arts Centre in Bray from Monday 22nd July to Sunday 4th August.

This body of work is a part of Conroy's continuing investigation into the Biophilia hypothesis which suggests that we humans have an innate connection to life and all living things.

During a residency at the Heinrich Böll Cottage, Achill Island, the artist began to closely examine organic structures found within the local environment when she observed similar shapes and patterns in a variety of local flora and fauna.

Parallel to this, during her research, Conroy came across the concepts of sacred geometry. In sacred geometry, Archangel Metatron, the angel of life, oversees the flow of energy in a mystical cube known as Metatron's Cube. This structure contains all of the geometric shapes in 'God's' creation and represents the patterns that make up everything 'God' has made.

Through observation and drawing Conroy began to deconstruct the organic structures that she found and distill them into simple geometric shapes. Hexagons, pentagons and circles, along with the platonic solids became impossible to avoid. By using elements of sacred geometry, in tandem with familiar mathematical principles, it became possible for the artist to see the structural connections between elements in the natural environment. This visual investigation leads her to believe that there is undoubtedly a familiar and universal underlying structure within the natural world, that connects us to each other and every other living thing.



Metatron's Cube, an exhibition by Mary Conroy, will be held in the Signal Arts Centre in Bray from Monday 22nd July to Sunday 4th August.



Carmel McClusky, Kealan Power, Gerry Power, and Richard Power are pictured with Patrick Power at his painting exhibition in Arklow Library



Joseph Walsh at the army firing range at the Emergency Services Family Fun Day in Greystones.  
Pic: Joe McQuillan

## Training kit donated to Greystones United AFC in celebration of 2019 women's world cup

To celebrate the FIFA Women's World Cup, Visa has donated training kits to a number of local football clubs in Ireland, including Greystones United AFC. The kits have been specifically donated to youth girl's teams across Ireland in a bid to encourage more participation in women's football at a local level.



Commenting on the donation, Suzy Brown, Marketing Director UK & Ireland at Visa said, "We are delighted to play a part in supporting women's football in Ireland, while also promoting diversity and inclusion. Quite often, local girls' teams can be overlooked when it comes to commercial support, which is why we wanted to make this donation at a time when global support for women in football has reached a tipping point, as evidenced by the interest in this year's World Cup tournament."

## Watermain improvement works in Arklow may cause disruption to supply

Irish Water wish to advise customers in Arklow that, as part of watermain improvement works being delivered, there may be a disruption to water supply on Wednesday 10th July from 10pm-2am in Coolgreaney Road, Vale Road, Main Street, Wexford Road, North Quay, Ferrybank, Sea Road, Sea View Avenue, Lower Dublin Road, St. Mary's Road, Connolly Street and Griffith Street.

The works being undertaken are part of the construction of over three kilometres of new water mains along the public road and the installation of new service connections from the new water main to each customer's property.

During these essential planned works homes and businesses in the affected areas may be impacted by reduced water pressure and water outages. Following these improvement works water supply may take 2-3 hours to return as water refills the network.

Irish Water understands this type of work can be inconvenient and will ensure our work crews make every effort to minimise any disruption these works may cause.

Customers can call the Irish Water customer helpline on 1850 278 278 for any questions in relation to the works.

These works are being carried out as part of Irish Water's national Leakage Reduction Programme which will see €500 million invested up to the end of 2021 to reduce the level of leakage across the country by fixing and replacing ageing water mains. This will ensure a safe, reliable water supply which is vital for our health, our environment and our growing population and economy.

To find out more about Irish Water's national programme of works to reduce leakage and improve Ireland's water supply visit our Leakage Reduction Programme Page

For updates visit <https://www.water.ie/water-supply/supply-and-service-update/>

# Altura Credit Union joins Metamo

Altura Credit Union have announced a €10 million collaboration with Irish based, international financial technology company Fexco in the formation of a new joint venture to be named Metamo.

Metamo is a 50:50 joint venture between the 16 investing credit unions incorporated under the name MetaCU and Fexco, one of Ireland's largest financial services companies. MetaCU credit unions represent over 480,000 members from across the country - including 33,600 from Altura Credit Union - and combined assets of over €3billion (c.19% of the sector).

The primary objective of Metamo is to support credit union viability and sustainability through the provision of a more complete and modernised suite of financial products including enhanced lending capabilities. Metamo is also uniquely positioned to develop more efficient operating systems for Altura in areas like process improvement, risk management and technology delivery.

Barry Monaghan, General Manager of Altura Credit Union said:

"This is an exciting day for Altura Credit Union which I am convinced will allow us to provide an improved service and set of products to our members. Altura Credit Union is

an integral part of several communities around Wicklow and Wexford and becoming part of the Metamo joint venture will mean we can modernise to keep pace with other financial service providers."

Speaking about the launch of Metamo, Minister for Finance Paschal Donohoe TD, commented:

"Credit unions hold a unique and special standing as one of the most trusted brands in the country. They continue to provide invaluable services to local communities promoting financial inclusion. I am delighted to see collaboration within the sector that will support

its continued viability and sustainability. Members of all credit unions stand to benefit from the enhanced products and services, more efficient operations and improved service delivery that Metamo will provide. Collaborative

efforts for the sector can come in many forms and I am encouraged by, and supportive of, the many projects designed to drive the sector forward, including the venture being launched by Metamo. I would like to congratulate the credit

unions and Fexco on this initiative and to wish them every success into the future."

The initial focus of the venture is on collaboration between Fexco and the investing credit unions to identify and develop products and solutions required by members. Metamo will offer these solutions to all other credit unions in the country who are not part of the joint venture in order to sustain the continued development of the sector.

Joe O'Toole, Chairperson of MetaCU - the entity comprising the 16 credit unions investing in Metamo - said:

"Metamo brings unprecedented scale to any previous sector initiative and signals a new and exciting development in the financial services industry. The company will deliver new income streams and improved processes for the investing credit unions and has the potential to transform the entire sector.

"We identified Fexco as our partner based on their familiarity with the sector, having provided foreign exchange services to credit unions for over 20 years. In addition, we will benefit

from Fexco's technical expertise and commercial delivery focus. For Metamo, Fexco is a natural fit.

"The multi-million-euro investment by the credit unions and Fexco in the establishment of Metamo is a significant vote of confidence in the future of these credit unions."

Denis McCarthy, CEO of Fexco commented:

"Participating in Metamo allows Fexco to leverage two of our key strengths; strategic investment and new product development. Like the credit unions, Fexco understands the value of supporting local communities, indeed we remain loyal

to Killorglin where the company was first founded, employing approximately 1,000 staff there today. We enjoy a longstanding relationship with the credit union sector in Ireland having provided foreign exchange services to them for over two decades. I look forward to broadening the scope of that work through the establishment of Metamo which, through strong collaboration, will ultimately safeguard the sector while delivering better products for members."



Pictured at the launch of Metamo were (l to r): Joe O'Toole (Chair, MetaCU), Barry Monaghan (Altura Credit Union), Denis McCarthy (CEO, Fexco),



Smiley's Charity Events have chosen WH Five Loaves Bray as their chosen charity for 2019. Smiley's have raised money for many local charities over the years including the Order of Malta, Bray First Responders, and My Canine Companion. Smiley's charity Events was set up by Monica Madden in memory of her son Sean. As part of this Sean's old school St Cronan's Bray did a food collection. Pictured are Principal Maeve Tierney, Monica Madden (Smiley's Charity Events) and teacher Karl O Broin.

# Olivia Newton-John to visit Museum of Style Icons

Newbridge Silverware and the Museum of Style Icons, in partnership with Julien's Auctions will present pre-auction exhibition celebrating one of pop music's greatest talents and treasured icons, Olivia Newton-John.

The exhibition will be on display from the 22nd July until the 18th August. The auction will then take place in November in the US. Portion of the Auction Proceeds to Benefit the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Wellness & Research Centre

"Her extraordinary career - that includes her starring role in Grease, one of the most successful Hollywood films and soundtracks of all time - and her recordings of some of the biggest pop singles of the 20th Century, makes her more than just a star but a pop culture phenomenon," said Martin Nolan,

Executive Director of Julien's Auctions. Newbridge will be the first stop on this exhibition tour, giving Irish fans the first glimpse of some of Olivia's most iconic film costumes and memorabilia.

The Cambridge-born and Melbourne-raised singer and actress began her music career at the age of 14, when she formed an all-girl group, Sol Four, with her friends. She became a regular on Australian radio and television shows



Olivia Newton John

where she performed as "Lovely Livvy" and toured nightclubs in Britain and across Europe with Pat Carroll (now Pat Farrar) as the duo "Pat and Olivia." Newton-John was also a regular on "The Cliff Richard Show." Newton-John recorded her first single, "Till You Say You'll Be Mine," in 1966 and recorded her first solo album in country music, If Not For You, in 1971.

In 1978, Newton-John would become not just an international movie star but a pop culture icon when she co-starred opposite John Travolta in the high school musical film, Grease (Paramount, 1978). The exhibition will feature the Hollywood superstar's iconic Grease leather jacket and pants, "Physical" and "Xanadu" wardrobe pieces, gowns, awards and more to rock the auction stage.

The Museum of Style Icons at the Newbridge Silverware Visitor Centre is located in Newbridge. It is open 7 days a week and admission is free. The museum also features garments and interesting artefacts from several Hollywood stars, musicians, and celebrities.

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Closing date for the above post: 12 noon on Thursday 25th July 2019.

**WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**  
Significant Information/ Revised Plans  
I hereby give notice of the submission of significant further information to Wicklow County Council in relation to planning application ref no: 19/16 for Tom & Pat Redmond who are applying for permission at Woodpark Housing estate in Rathdrum, for revised site layout with new access road to the Woods Estate, 46 houses and creche comprising of 3 and 4 bedroom detached and semi-detached two storey houses and bungalow with pedestrian links to existing development together with associated site development works and services with connection of foul sewer to existing public service at The Woods Estate in Rathdrum, 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 Wicklow County Council 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 made a submission or observation.

**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. C.F.

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

**WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**  
We, The Estate of Maire Ryle, seek retention permission for the retention of the existing single storey side extension providing ancillary accommodation to the house at Lissadell, Wyndham Park, 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**  
Retention Planning Permission is being sought from the above authority by Nikki & Sarah Evans for elevational changes to renovated dwelling from that granted under planning permission reference number 06/6497. Address: "Manuka", Kevin Street, Tinahely, Co Wicklow.  
The Planning Application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of a prescribed fee within the period of five weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

**WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**  
I, Tom O'Neill, seek full planning permission for a classic car storage garage and a studio to the rear of my existing dwelling at "Andana", Tomriland, Roundwood, County Wicklow, A98 TN80. All the above together with ancillary works. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of 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**  
Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplansdesign.com) Seeks planning permission for a revised house type on previously granted site (ref. no. 16/819) with revised floor level from previously granted dwelling, and associated works at 2 Merrymeeting, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow for A. Corcoran. The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

**WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**  
Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplansdesign.com) Seeks planning permission for a dwelling, waste water treatments system, garage, new entrance, driveway and associated works at Blairroe Upper, Wicklow, Co. Wicklow for A. Doyle. The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

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