



BATON TWIRLERS page 8



UPLANDS FUNDING page 10



HOME & GARDEN pages 16-23

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Tuesday 30th July 2019 5 Eglinton Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow Tel: 01 - 2869111 www.wicklowtimes.net E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie

## WICKLOW LOSES IN 'POSTCODE LOTTERY'

County Wicklow is one of the losers in the country's healthcare 'postcode lottery' coming in at joint second-last place for the poorest level of health services in the State, according to a new report by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI).

Wicklow failed in eight out of ten areas of its health service. In the eight services where it failed, Wicklow was performing at least 10% lower than the national average.

This includes areas such as Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, Speech & Language Therapists, Counsellors and Psychologists. The report is entitled 'Geographic Profile of Healthcare Needs and Non-Acute Healthcare Supply in Ireland'. It shows an unequal supply of community health and social care across

counties, with the greater Dublin Commuter Belt and the South East having the lowest supply of primary and community care in Ireland.

The report was published last week as part of a Health Research Board funded project. Findings suggest that areas with low supply of care should be targeted to increase supply provision. In Wicklow, there are 1.2 counsellors and psychologists per 10,000 people, compared to 2.4 in counties such as Laois and Sligo.

The Fianna Fáil Spokesperson on Health,

Stephen Donnelly, said that the ESRI's geographic profile highlights a 'glaring inequality' in community and social healthcare around the country. Deputy Donnelly called for the targeted tailoring of resources and funding to address shortages.

He said, "Inequality cannot be tolerated in healthcare. Through Slaintecare we are attempting to move towards universal healthcare which means that everyone, regardless of whether they have money or not, can access a high standard healthcare. We



Pictured at their wedding in Ballinastoe last weekend are Julia Miller and Sean Pollock.

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need to see the same access in community healthcare.

"We know that central to this inequality is the fact that we have no data on population need. In fact, a system of resource allocation based on population need has not been in place since 2014 so it's very reasonable to assume that this inequality will continue long into the future until we allocate on the basis of need.

"Community and social healthcare facilitate discharges from the acute hospital sector and prevents admissions in the first place. The ad hoc allocation of resources is undoubtedly heaping pressure on the acute network. We need to work smart and work hard to gather the stats. This will take a cross departmental approach from Government to use data on demographics to

target resources to where they are needed most.

"Information on the number of under 6's, the number of pensioners, the number of medical card holders and people with chronic illness in a given region should play a role in where resources are targeted. It shouldn't be the case that a child on the Eastern seaboard has to wait over a year for an initial appointment for speech therapy while a child on the other side of the country gets more immediate access.

"We know that sorting out problems in primary care provides the pathway to dealing with the issues in acute settings. We know that we need data and information to accurately target resources in primary care. So let's get to it", he concluded.

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Scott and Erin Marah at the Wicklow Parish FamFest in the Abbey Grounds, Wicklow Town

### What's Happening...

#### An evening with Elvis

There will be an Evening with Elvis in memory of Rose, and in aid of Arklow Cancer Support, on Saturday 24th August in the Arklow Bay Hotel. Doors open at 7pm. The evening will feature Cathal Byrne, singing all of your Elvis favourites. Ladies are invited to wear their Rockabilly dresses, Men can dress as Elvis or one of the characters he played in his movies. It promises to be a fun-filled night with spot prizes, all in aid of a great cause. Tickets cost €15.

#### Dahlia Show

The Delgany & District Horticultural Society Dahlia Show will take place in St. Patrick's School, Greystones, on 31st August, from 3pm to 5pm. There will be lots of roses and flowers at this wonderful annual event. Teas will be served during the show. Plants are also for sale. New members and exhibitors are very welcome. All exhibits must be staged before 11.30am on the day of the show. Entries must be advised to the Show Secretary in advance. Please email ddhs.showentries@gmail.com. DetShankill Tidy Towns

#### Historic Walk

Author and local historian Rob Goodbody will lead a 'Ballycorus Lead Mines' walk, organised by Shankill Tidy Towns, on Bank Holiday Monday, August 5th, in which participants will visit the original works at Ballycorus, the Lead Shot Tower, the Fumigating Tunnel and the Iconic Chimney on the side of Carrigolligen. Participants are asked to assemble outside Rathmichael COI Church, at 11.30am, to dress appropriately for the day's prevailing weather conditions, wear suitable/appropriate footwear, and bring light refreshments. Participants take part in this event at their own risk. Details at www.DelganyDHS.com and on Facebook.

#### First Saturday Book Sale

On Saturday August 3rd the August First Saturday Book Sale, which supports the Shankill Old Folks Association, will take place in the Shankill Old Folks Centre, Lower Road, Shankill, from 10am to 1pm so avail of the opportunity to pick up great summer reading material from the wide selection of books, DVDs and CDs available. S.J. White, whose book 'Thoughts and Obsessions' was published recently, will be signing copies. Donations of books, which must be in a good and clean condition, other than school/text books, will be considered for acceptance on that day. Supporting the First Saturday Book Sale supports the wider Shankill Community at large.

## 19th century doll's house fetches €48,000

A 19th century Doll's House from Tara's Palace Museum of Childhood fetched €48,000 at an auction in Kilkenny last week.

The two-room doll's house is made of mahogany and dates back to 1810, and had a guide price of just €3,000-€4,000. Proceeds from the auction will be distributed among a number of children's charities. The house is from a collection belonging to doll house collector Vivien Green.

Tara's Palace Museum of Childhood, which was located in Powerscourt, Enniskerry, announced in May that it was closed but was partnering with the Little Museum of Dublin at a premises at Stephen's Green.

"We are working creatively with the Little Museum of Dublin staff to ensure that Tara's Palace can be a fitting centre piece helping to fulfill its heritage and family education mandate. We will announce the opening date as soon as a target date is fixed."

## St David's car boot sale

There will be a car boot sale at St. David's Secondary School in Greystones on 4th August, from 9am to 3pm. The gate opens at 7:30am for sellers. Gates will be locked at 3:30pm. The cost is €15 for cars and €25 for vans or cars with trailers. Email info@stdavids.ie for queries and sellers rules.

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# Four Kings Boxing Club hold annual club show

There was a great display of boxing skills on show in Kilcoole on Sunday 28th July, as Four Kings Boxing Club club held its annual show. For the first time this event was held in St Patrick's Hall in Kilcoole.

The fights were fully judged bouts and will count towards the fighters' IABA amateur records.

Established in 2017 and now in its third year of operation the club has gone from strength to strength. Four King's Boxing Club is run under the dedicated and careful eye of former Irish elite amateur Stephen Coughlan.

The club has had great success lately with Kaci Rock, Amy O'Brien, Jack O'Connor and Tadhg O'Donnell all picking up Leinster titles.

Four Kings BC is dedicated to the open and inclusive development of the sport of amateur boxing.

Four Kings currently train out of St Patrick's



Hall and Coláiste Training is Sundays and costs €5 a session of €12 for the Wednesday Friday and

## Tír na nÓg comes to Wicklow

Together with NatureConnect, Wicklow Sudbury School has held two Story Immersion Day Camps in Kilpedder this summer and will run a third camp August 6th-8th, Tír na nÓg.

For one week this summer, Tír na nÓg comes to County Wicklow, with activities and games all week out in the woods; crafts, art, drama, nature studies, wilderness survival skills, acro-yoga, music and so much more!

The first two camps, Nature Spirit and Dragon Quest, generated glowing feed-

back from the campers and their parents.

Maeve, aged 8, said "It's like a secret place. I liked the camp and the village and meeting the fairies and making the wand. It was like camping but not camping. The stories were awesome."

There are still spaces available for Tír na nÓg. Details at natureconnectireland.com/story-immersion-camps/

These camps are a fantastic opportunity for young people in the area to get in touch with nature in a way that's very rarely possible with experienced forest school leaders in a magical woodland setting.



Wicklow Sudbury School has run two story immersion day camps in Kilpedder this summer

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## LOCAL WICKLOW Times

is published by  
Wicklow Times, 5 Eglinton Road, Bray.  
Tel: 01-2869111

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# GRAVESIDE ITEMS BEING STOLEN TO SELL ON

Items are being stolen from gravesides in cemeteries around Wicklow then sold on by unscrupulous thieves at car boot sales, *Wicklow Times* has learned.

Relatives and friends visiting graves of their loved ones in recent months have been appalled to discover that wreaths, flowers, candles, toys, lights and other mementos had been stolen from the headstones.

In what would appear to be a connected occurrence, cars in cemetery car parks are also being targeted by thieves. The thefts have been reported at a number of cemeteries across the county and have been understandably upsetting

for those who are leaving memorial items for their loved ones.

Mementos have been stolen from graves of all types, including ones for the very recently deceased as well as babies and children. One visitor to Springfield Cemetery in Bray reported spotting a woman walking through graves with a large shopping bag, grabbing anything that took her fancy.

A little bit of investigative work by local woman Pam Jenkins appears to

have solved the mystery of the missing graveside items. Pam happened to be attending a car boot sale in Wicklow when she came across a family selling a number of memorial items. Upon closer inspection Pam realised that the items were engraved with names, one read 'Mum and Dad, sadly missed from Grace'.

Pam said there were at least 20 items all personalised with different names. She enquired as to whether they offered a personalisa-

tion service for items and was told no, they were just selling the items displayed.

Pam said, "We realised the items were not new so we phoned Gardai who turned up and confiscated all of them. So hopefully some people got them back but realistically they would have had no clue where they came from. It's disgraceful."

Visitors to cemeteries are advised to report any suspicious activities to Gardai.



Pictured are Claudia Sola, Saoirse Healy, and Joana Borrás who took part in the Wicklow Hospice Colour Run at the Murrough

## Wicklow loses in 'postcode lottery'

Continued from Page 1

John Brady TD said the ESRI underlines the large inequalities in the supply of health and social care in Wicklow and highlights the need for targeted investment in our county's primary and community care. Deputy Brady said "The ESRI must be congratulated on an encompassing and extremely detailed study which lays bare the inequalities in non-acute and primary care services county by county. The report itself underlines the inequalities in the supply of health services and social care in Wicklow and highlights the need for targeted investment in our county's primary and community care.

"The report is very clear that healthcare supply has not been allocated according to population need and this has led to inequalities across the primary care and other non-acute services they examined across the State, especially in Wicklow. This report underlines the need for targeted investment in primary and community care to address the inequalities we have in healthcare supply and also to have any hope in implementing Sláintecare."

ESRI say "healthcare supply could impede progress in implementing Sláintecare proposals, such as meeting more healthcare needs in the community and thereby reducing pressures on acute hospitals. This report also shows the importance of accurate and timely collection of health and social care data. Establishing a consistent and systematic data infrastructure would improve the evidence base to inform the efficient and equitable allocation of health and social care resources in Ireland. As the population will grow and age at different rates across counties, policies are required to allocate supply according to need."

One of the authors of the report, Brendan Walsh, stated: "Quantifying supply at the local level is vital to inform policymakers about those areas where greater provision of care is required. The findings demonstrate that in the absence of a national resource allocation system that relates supply to population need, inequalities in the supply of health and social care could impede progress towards proposed Sláintecare policies."

## Proposed Kilcoole development 'requires further consideration'

A proposed major strategic housing development on the west side of Kilcoole Main Street requires further consideration/amendment, An Bord Pleanála has decided.

The pre-application to ABP from Kimpton Vale Ltd seeks permission for 253 residential units (211 houses and 42 apartments), as well as offices, shops, and creche.

ABP's decision means that the planned project is not yet in a fit state to be lodged as a formal application, however the developer may proceed with a formal application at any time.

A previous application from Kimpton Vale for a

housing development of 206 dwellings at the same location was refused by Wicklow County Council in 2003. At the time, the Council's reasons related to the dangerous and inadequate junction with Main Street proposed; no traffic impact assessment; inadequate surface water drainage; insufficient public and private open space; inadequate variety of layout, pedestrian and cycle links and poor integration with existing

development; no provision for childcare facilities; and no Part V proposals. It's stated in the new planning application cover letter that these issues have all been addressed, and that the proposed development has been designed to integrate with an approved three-story mixed use development to the south of the site, granted permission by the Council in 2017.

development; no provision for childcare facilities; and no Part V proposals.

It states that all proposed buildings are designed to have agreeable proportions in terms of their height and width, and with respect to the width of proposed new streets and civic/open spaces, creating an agreeable sense of enclosure and townscape. The cover letter states that the development will expand the town centre and "repair an important gap in the town's built fabric".

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# '133' IS MOST COMPLAINED ABOUT SERVICE

Bus Eireann's 133 route, which runs from Wicklow Town to Dublin Airport, is the most complained about of all Bus Eireann's routes, according to figures released by the National Transport Authority (NTA).

The NTA last week released details of customer complaints for bus services all over the country. According to these figures, Wicklow's 133 service was the most complained about, with 899 complaints per 100,000 passengers in 2018. The average for other Bus Eireann routes last year was 40 complaints per 100,000 passengers.

Social Democrats councillor Jennifer Whitmore has called on the NTA and Bus Eireann to urgently resolve the issues with the 133 bus service, saying that "commuters and residents in Wicklow have put up with an inefficient, irregular service for too long and this is evidenced by the recent publication of customer complaints by the



Cllr Jennifer Whitmore

NTA".

Cllr Whitmore continued: "These figures will come as no surprise to people who rely on the 133 to get to work or school. There have been issues with this service for many years. I, and many other public representatives, have raised this with Bus Eireann and the NTA on numerous

occasions. However, we are yet to see any improvements to the service. In the meantime, the daily commute for many is very stressful and the unreliability of the service means that many take to their cars. This is not a good result for the commuter or the environment, and we should be encouraging commuters to use public transport, rather than have a service that puts them off it completely."

Cllr Whitmore continued "If issues on the

133 cannot be resolved in the short term, then I believe the NTA should look at building on the success of their recently opened Local Link service in Wicklow and introduce a link between Wicklow Town and Greystones. At least in this way, passengers from Wicklow Town would be able to access the Dart service and make their overall commute less time consuming, less stressful and more reliable."

## Shankill GAA Club

The Shankill GAA Club's Kellogg's Cul Camp will be held in St Laurence College, Loughlinstown, from August 19th to August 23rd. The number of places is limited so book now to avoid disappointment. Register on-line at [kelloggsculcamp.gaa.ie](http://kelloggsculcamp.gaa.ie).



Ruben and Fionn O'Brien at the Wicklow Parish FamFest in the Abbey Grounds, Wicklow Town

## READS GOING BUT NOT GONE

Reads, the iconic stationery and book shop as well as quick turn-around printers is leaving Bray Main Street in October this year but owner Niall Mescall insists they are not abandoning their customer base in north Wicklow.

"We are closing the shop on Main Street in October but will provide a full service through our new online shop [www.readsprintandstationery.ie](http://www.readsprintandstationery.ie). We will also provide a free delivery service to our north Wicklow clients over a certain value along with the Bray store still open till October for collection instore. The 'get a quote form' on the new online store will be excellent for any questions or getting quotes.

"The decision to close the shop was a difficult one but we had to be pragmatic. Rent and rates were costing us close to €100,000 a year and this was before the usual overheads of light, heat, insurance and staff. With such uncertainty over Bray Main Street and the restricted parking in the town and not knowing the anchor tenants or incoming tenants for the new shopping centre, it was the pragmatic decision. However, I would like to return to a suitable premise after the Florentine Centre opens next year if it's feasible and the retail situation is improved.

"We really enjoyed the customers and fellow retailers in Bray and surrounding areas who supported us and will miss them and the area, especially our annual

Christmas customer open day with East Coast Radio and the many charities and volunteer agencies we sponsored and supported. We will still endeavour to help them and the great work they do into the future.

"In the meantime, we will provide a full print service to our loyal customers and any new customers through our online shop [www.readsprintandstationery.ie](http://www.readsprintandstationery.ie) and provide a delivery service. We will also service our customers from our Stillorgan and Sandyford shops who have existing artwork on file or want to purchase stationery or books.

"Our customers were delighted last year when we introduced cost-price school books, we sold them at cost taking no profit. This offer is available again this year WITHOUT THE MINIMUM €20 SPEND so parents drop into our Bray shop see what we have along with the discounted top branded stationery and art supplies there are huge savings.

"Email [info@readsprintandstationery.ie](mailto:info@readsprintandstationery.ie) for any queries or questions you may have. Thank you for your support over the years and hopefully into the future."



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Aine McKerr and Lucy Doyle at the Arklow Seabreeze Festival

## Controversy as Pig Race is replaced by Sheep Race

The controversial pig derby that takes place every year as part of the Arklow Seabreeze Festival was cancelled this year ahead of the festival on the advice of Minister Andrew Doyle, citing concerns about swine fever. However there was widespread anger in the community when instead, sheep races which consisted of five sheep being chased down the street by the Festival Queen among cheering onlookers, were scheduled instead at the last minute.

Local woman Ciara Fitzgerald has been campaigning against these races for four years. She organised a petition which to date has 12,000 signatures. Ciara told *Wicklow Times* the committee said they do not care about the petition as they claim it was signed by a number of people from outside Arklow. Ciara says she has offered to show the committee a breakdown of the signature locations but to date, they have declined.

Ciara added, "The Seabreeze festival's decision to switch to sheep because they were told not to race pigs anymore, and not just

for swine fever concerns either, but because the health, welfare and stress the pigs were also condemned by the IFA. The decision to race sheep was abhorrent, and incredibly short sighted and I do believe it backfired on them. There was public outcry online and I implore them not to use any animals again. They need to start listening to the majority of people who do not want animals herded through a crowded, noisy main street, for the sake of a few cheap laughs. Sheep are even worse than pigs if that's possible and can literally die from fright. There is absolutely no consideration for animal wel-

fare during the Seabreeze festival, racing livestock is disgusting."

Ciara says she will continue her campaign to have the races stopped. Meanwhile festival organiser Colm Moules said that the farmer who owned the sheep assured them that the race would not cause any distress to the animals.

"We issued a press release only on Thursday night in light of information received regarding the Swine Flu. At this point we had been in contact with the farmer who owned the pigs and naturally he was disappointed at the Pig Race not going

ahead. In light of the short notice we received, and having promoted the event through press, leaflets etc for the Festival he asked if we would go ahead with a sheep race instead, where he would supply sheep to the Festival. We asked him about proceeding along this route and he indicated it would not cause any harm or distress to his sheep. In the interest and safety of the animals we took the decision to only run three races instead of the five we normally have done for the pig race and shorten the distance considerably. Our thanks to everyone for their help and support."

## Arklow Baton Twirlers to compete in France

Members of the Arklow Baton Twirlers will travel to France in August for the World Baton Twirling Federation Grand Prix.



Councillor Peir Leonard, Mary McDonald, Maria Fitzmaurice, Anne O'Connell, Annete Sowden and Kitty Brennan of the Arklow Town Twinning Association present a donation to Tracey Walker, Hannah Kelly-Nolan, Niamh Dowling, Leaha Walker-Moore and Ciara Kelly of the Arklow Baton Twirlers.

Arklow Town Twinning Association, to support the team of athletes, presented them with a cheque for €100 last week in the Arklow Bay Hotel.

In August, Hannah Kelly-Nolan, Niamh Dowling, Leaha Walker-Moore and Ciara Kelly from the Arklow Baton Twirlers, and their coach Tracey Walker, will travel to Limoges for the Championships which will take place from 4th-11th August.

The first World Baton Twirling Championships were held in Seattle, Washington, in 1980. Baton Twirling is a relatively new sport, with origins that are unknown. The WBTF suggest that it may have started in Eastern Europe and Asia at dance festivals where people twirled and tossed sticks and torches, etc. This progressed into armies where marchers twirled rifles, and into marching bands where the 'drum major' twirls a baton.

The involvement of females in baton twirling became popular throughout the 30s, 40, and 50s, beginning with the debut of the 'majorette'. Shorter and lighter batons were developed for the many girls and young women that were attracted to the activity, and by the 1960s it was a competitive sport with incorporated baton twirling associations. The WBTF itself was formed in 1977.

## Smiles all round as new oral health policy is launched

Children and adults across will be smiling from ear to ear as a shiny new National Oral Health Policy has been officially launched.

Spearheaded by Dr. Dympna Kavanagh, Chief Dental Officer at the Department of Health, this new government policy provides free oral healthcare to all children, from birth to 16 years of age, and adults holding medical cards.

This new policy sees a much-needed change from 'diagnose and treat' to a 'proactive and preventative' approach, available locally at a time which is convenient to the individual looking to visit their dentist. Underpinned by the same ideals as Sláintecare, with the needs of the people at its core, Smile agus Sláinte aims to resolve the gaps in routine care for the very young and vulnerable in our community, such as those in residential care, with disabilities and the elderly.

Smile agus Sláinte will cover a wide range of services, many of which are not available under the current oral health policy. Services include, but are not limited to: Oral health assessments & examinations; Preventative interventions such as fissure sealants; Restorative treatment, such as fillings; Emergency Care; Diagnostic supports such as radiographs, orthodontic and oral surgery assessments; Fluoride therapy; Oral cancer risk assessment; Advice for alcohol control, tobacco cessation and diet.

Minister Simon Harris said: "I am really pleased to support this excellent initiative by my Department. This new strategy will mean a completely new approach to Dental and Oral health and will emphasis prevention over treatment. Children and adults in Wicklow, and throughout the country will benefit from this much more supportive approach to dental care."

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Pictured is the Salesforce Pure Mile Clean Up The Uplands Team, after a recent clean-up

## Hundreds of areas in Wicklow being cleaned up by Pure Mile groups

The 2019 Pure Mile Competition has attracted a huge number of communities, groups, individuals, organisations, businesses, scouts, walking groups and cycling clubs, with now over 2,500 volunteers assisting Pure to clean up the uplands with 500 miles of road, mountains, valleys, woodlands and forestries being improved and enhanced. Due to an unprecedented number of groups entering the Pure Mile, applications are now closed for this year and will re-open in December 2019.

The Pure Mile encourages communities and groups living in rural areas to adopt a mile, or miles of road, and work together to keep these areas litter and rubbish free. Groups also

research information about their local wildflowers, plants, trees and animals. Other projects focus on the history and folklore, or the built, cultural and social heritage of the area.

Special interest groups such as walking groups, cycling groups, scout groups, businesses, and organisations, can adopt a mile, or miles of road, in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands and help Pure

to Clean Up The Uplands. Pure provide all groups with Pure Mile signage, Pure Mile bags, gloves, litter pickers and Pure Mile high-visibility vests, and the Pure Truck removes all of the

rubbish collected by groups.

Ian Davis, Manager of Pure, stated "The Pure Mile has been a huge success and I would like to thank all of the numerous groups involved in the project. The volunteers that take part in the Pure Mile really make a difference to the areas they live in, or recreate in, and the amount of applications and interest this year has been amazing. Hundreds of litter picks, clean-ups, anti-dumping initiatives, heritage projects and special events, have already taken place this year, and they have resulted in the removal of tonnes of litter and dumping from the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands."

Judging of the Pure Mile will commence in August, however, due to the large number of areas involved this year, it won't finish until late September. All groups who enter the Pure Mile are invited to the Pure Mile Gala Event, which is currently being organised for October 2019, and all receive a Certificate of Participation, a selection of Native Irish Trees, and all groups feature in the Pure Mile Calendar.

Further information on Pure can be found on [www.pureproject.ie](http://www.pureproject.ie).

**TO REPORT DUMPERS AND DUMPING LO-CALL 1850 365 121.**

# Core funding a concern for Wicklow Uplands Council

Core Funding for the Wicklow Uplands Council is a concern, according to its Chairman Tom Byrne.

Speaking at the Uplands Council's recent AGM, Mr Byrne said "Despite the large number of successful projects initiated by Wicklow Uplands Council, core funding is a concern. The organisation continues to be supported by the Heritage Council, Wicklow County Council and Communicorp and while this support is greatly appreciated, the Uplands Council is seeking a more secure funding arrangement.

"Ongoing budgetary constraints faced by the Heritage Council has meant that the funding for groups like Wicklow Uplands Council has been cut in recent years. This is of concern as the Heritage Council is one of the few organisations that can support these groups."

event to the uplands in September. Challenges such as a shortage of accommodation for visitors and the reports of overcapacity at the monastic site of Glendalough during peak times, were also noted.

The Environment & Recreation Panel spoke of the recently opened public consultation on dog control legislation and how it represented an important opportunity to address the issue. The need for forest barriers to be closed to avoid anti-social behaviour and incidents of illegal dumping were also discussed. The huge success and positive impact of the PURE Project and its initiatives such as the Pure Mile Competition, were acknowledged by all



Tom Byrne and Brian Dunne of the Wicklow Uplands Council with Minister Andrew Doyle at the Wicklow Uplands Council AGM in the Glendalough Hotel.

Large numbers attended the Wicklow Uplands Council's Panel Meeting and AGM event held in the Glendalough Hotel.

The Community Panel, which looks at wide ranging issues affecting upland communities, concluded that issues such as poor broadband, rural crime and rural isolation needs to be highlighted further. The impact of additional windfarm operations in the uplands were of concern, although there was some positive discussion about the formation of energy group schemes in the uplands.

The Farming and Landowning Panel spoke of the ongoing issue of responsible dog control, in particular on open mountain where sheep are grazing. Rural crime prevention was keenly discussed, and the panel welcomed the news that three new Garda liaison officers had been assigned to the county. The installation of CCTV close to key roads such as the Sally Gap, was suggested as a possible measure to tackle incidents of rural crime. There was disappointment expressed by the panel that the permissive burning season was not extended in March, despite the provisions found in the recently enacted Heritage Act.

The Economic and Tourism Panel gave a warm welcome to a number of exciting developments in the region including the announcement of funding for the Blessington Greenway, the opening of the Miners Way trail, the remedial works on St. Kevin's Way and the arrival of the international EcoTrail race

in attendance. There was also a widespread welcome given to the 183 bus service operating between Glendalough and Wicklow Town.

The keynote address was given by Minister of State for Food, Forestry and Horticulture, Andrew Doyle, who complimented the Council on its extensive efforts to represent all of the communities across the uplands. Minister Doyle drew special attention to one of the key projects the council has developed over a number of years, the SUAS Pilot Project, which is working with the farming community to support hill farming and commonage groups in the uplands.

The Roundwood based TD, said that the Council had been successful in its tender for the competitive Deer Management Project, due to its well-established reputation and wide skillset to undertake large-scale projects.

Speaking after the event, Brian Dunne, Coordinator of the Council, added: "The panel meetings offer an important opportunity to discover the issues affecting the upland communities and to collectively seek solutions to address them. We saw a great number of representatives including many new ones, attend the event, and the Council's newly elected board looks forward to engaging with them. The keynote address from Minister Doyle really captured the importance of having an organisation such as the Uplands Council and we are grateful for the support he offered in sourcing sustainable core funding."

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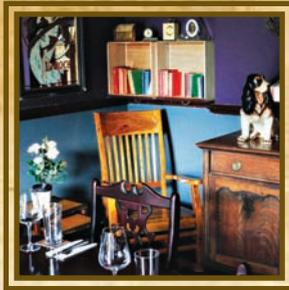
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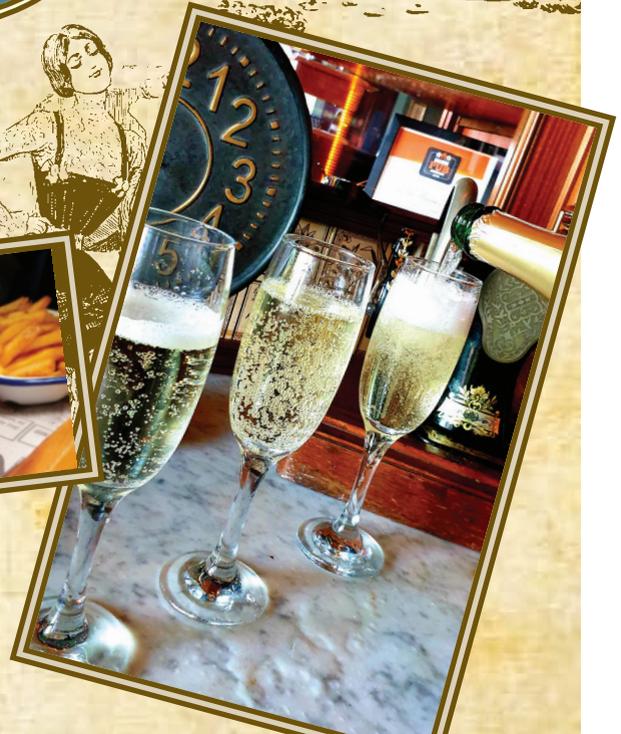
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Sean Smullen, Faye Manley, Caitlin Merrigan, Orla Reville, Liam Reville, Emma Merrigan, Shane Lincoln and Aime Lear are pictured at the Wicklow Parish FamFest in the Abbey Grounds, Wicklow Town

## €57M to be invested in Wicklow under National Broadband Plan

Over 20% of premises in Wicklow still without high-speed broadband in 2019

The roll-out of high-speed broadband to over 14,437 premises in Wicklow has moved one step closer, as the Government announced that work to finalise the contract for the National Broadband Plan (NBP) is well progressed.

Many homes and business premises in County Wicklow are adversely affected by lack of broad-

band and many have been lobbying their local representatives for years to get the same services

as their counterparts in the capital and major cities around the country. The high-speed broadband roll out will cover the remaining 22% of premises in the county.

Communications Minister Richard Bruton recently told the Cabinet on Wednesday that 'it is crucial that we move to sign the contract so that the one million people who today are without access, are not left behind'. National Broadband Ireland (NBI) are the Preferred Bidder for the contract, and Taoiseach Leo Varadkar has already indicated that he would like to have the contract signed by the National Ploughing Championships in mid-September this year. The first homes could be passed and connected by early autumn next year once the contract is closed.

Wicklow will receive an investment of €57 million to provide fibre broadband to homes in the Intervention Area (IA). This is a mapped area of rural Ireland where high-speed broadband is currently not commercially available and it encompasses over half a million premises, 56,000 farms and 44,000 businesses. In Wicklow this includes areas such as Tinahely, Ashford, Glencree and Blessington. In total, 22% of all premises in Wicklow will be passed and eligible for connection.

Commenting on the latest news, Dónal O'Keeffe, Broadband Development Officer of Wicklow County Council said, "Wicklow County Council welcomes the news from the NBP and NBI regarding the investment commitment of 57 million euro to rural communities within Co. Wicklow. This will future proof rural communities by providing vital high-speed broadband services to all premises in the county. Currently, 22.3% of premises in the county, approximately 14,500

homes, businesses, farms and other facilities, still do not have access to high-speed internet. This is severely obstructing rural business growth and sustainability and quality of life of rural people in this digital era. The project will substantially help bridge the divide between rural and urban living over the coming years."

Local businesswomen Rachel Kane of Lifehack.ie welcomes the news, "As a resident of Baltinglass, West Wicklow, I have been immersed in the research and development of human connections to overcome the 'barriers to communication' for enterprise and individuals with West Wicklow Business Network, also on a community project for co-working in Baltinglass Courthouse, a contributor to the development of the Wicklow Digital Strategy (Wicklow County Council) and my own fledgling business Lifehack as a design researcher. The potential impact of the NBI roll out for the 'one-in-four' premises to participate in a digital society is very promising.

West Wicklow, similar to other rural towns and villages has not recovered as quickly as other areas since the recession, due to geographical, transport, infrastructure, accessibility and broadband barriers. With this investment in County Wicklow, the future for residents and SMEs to be included in the economic recovery and digital innovations in health, literacy, education, e-commerce, will create a level playing field. While it is not total saturation, we need to remember the rural electrification process took 30+ years to reach every home. We can innovate with remote working, co-working and sustainable futures for our 'millennium babies' and democratise our workplace in the beautiful 'Garden County.'"

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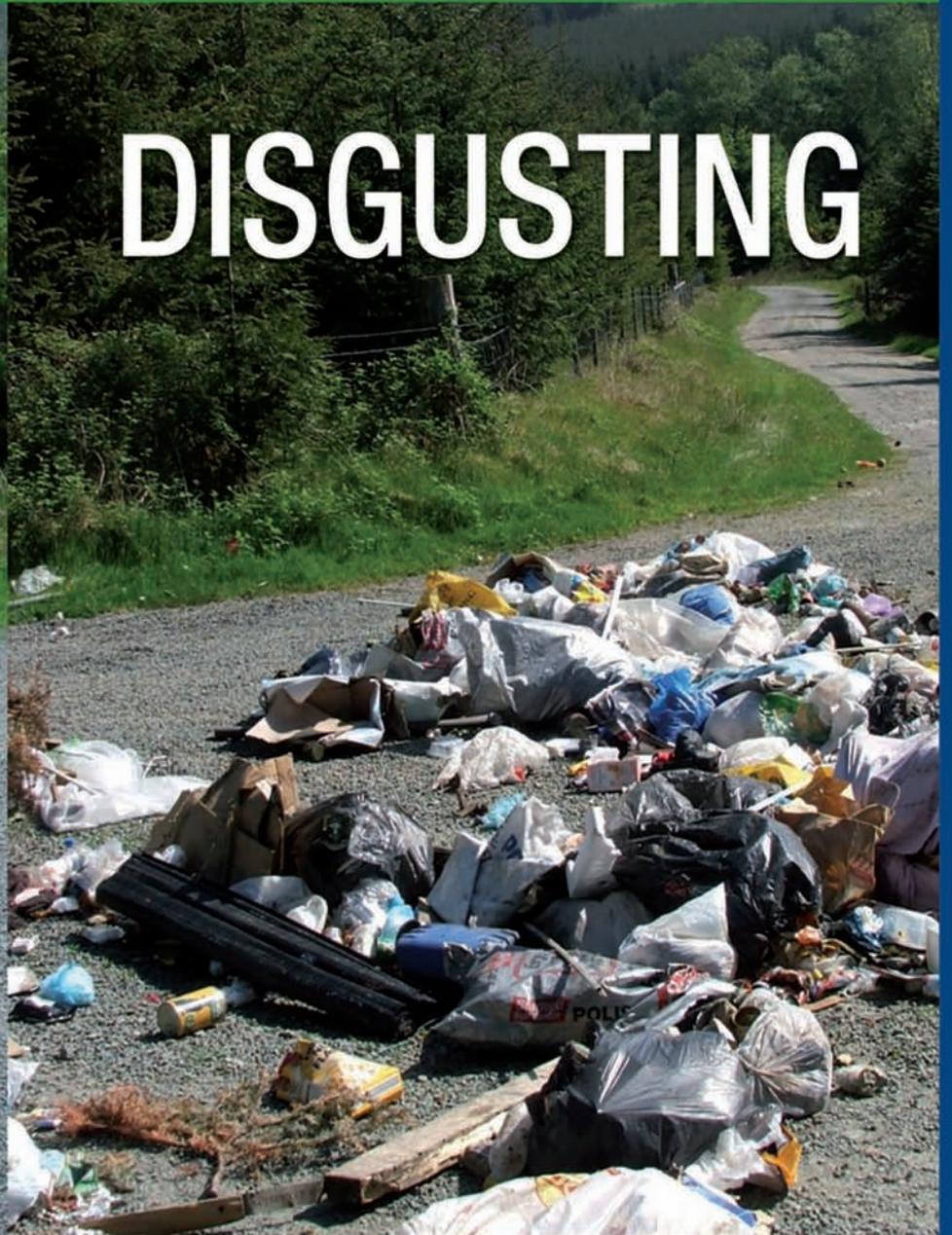
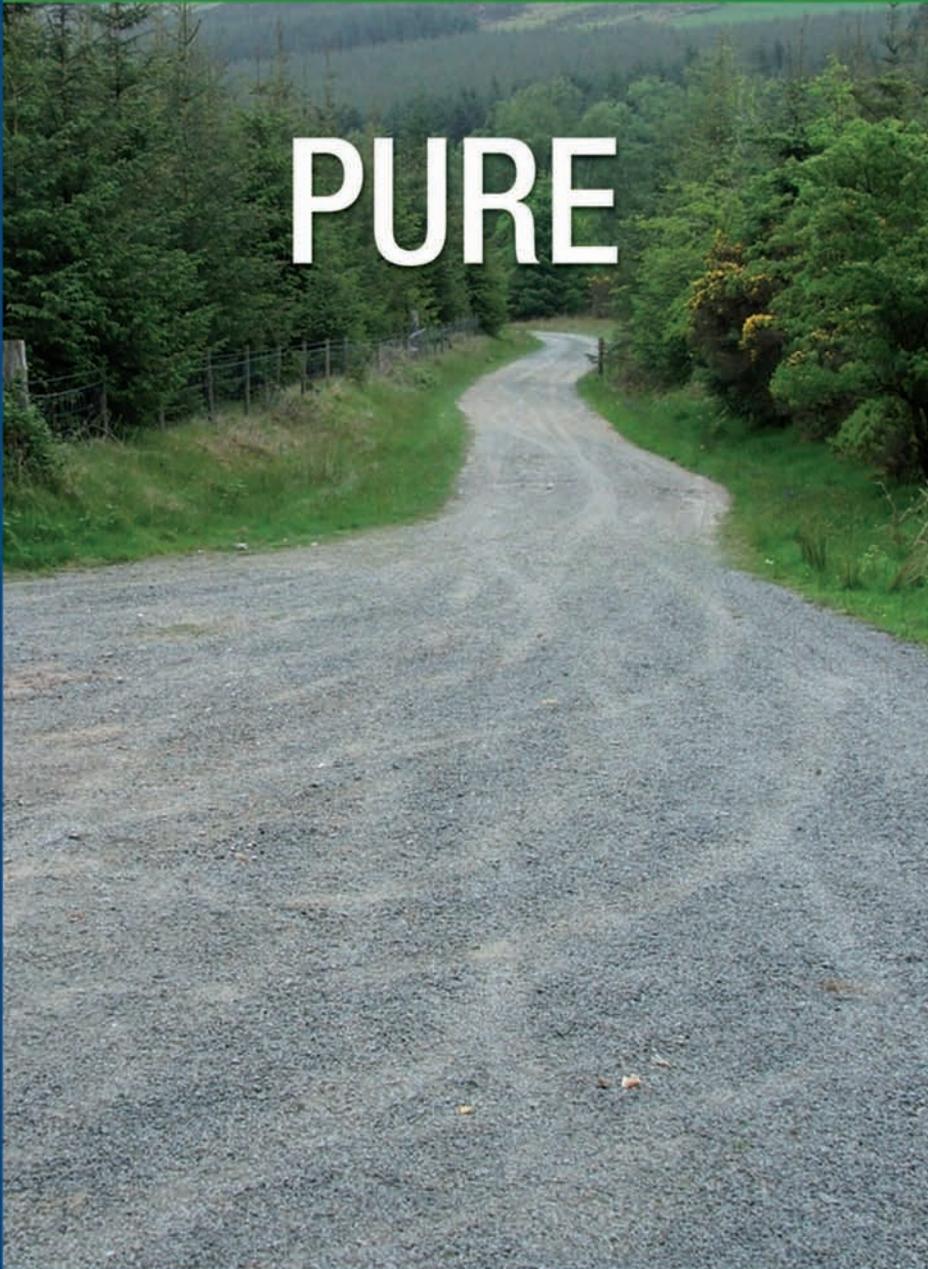
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**E**nigma Design is a cabinetmaking company specialising in fully bespoke kitchens and cabinetry and offering an entirely tailored service from the initial design to the finished product.

Since 1999 Enigma Design has been producing the highest quality handmade cabinetry, and the company has continued to grow through the kind recommendations of many happy and satisfied clients, along with continued repeat business from interior designers and architects.



Enigma Design is jointly owned and operated by Steven Jones and Brendan O'Neill. The workshop is managed by Brendan while Steven manages the design and sales side of the business. Steven and Brendan have a wealth of experience in the design and manufacture of custom-made kitchens and bespoke cabinetry and always prioritise achieving the highest standards possible within the work environment and in the quality of products and services. Earlier this year, Steven has been joined in the showroom by Julia Winkler who has come on board in a



Enigma Design's kitchen units are built to last a lifetime.

*“At Enigma Design, we offer our clients an unlimited range of designs and specifications”*

design and sales role and has already made a difference to the design team.

From very humble beginnings in a small workshop, the business has now expanded to a purpose-built 6,500 sq.ft showroom and workshop in Newtownmountkenny, where all of their units are individually handcrafted. All their pieces are fully bespoke, built in their workshop and are finished and installed by their talented team of qualified cabinet

makers, installers and painters. Their team of skilled and creative professionals are dedicated to producing

top-quality results and driven by a commitment to high-quality products and a perfect understanding of the requirements of their clients.

“At Enigma Design, we offer our clients an unlimited range of designs and specifications for bedrooms, kitchens and many other units that are built to last a lifetime. We welcome any kind of project - commercial or residential, large or small. We work with natural and modern materials, including solid wood, wood veneers and laminates, and we use a variety of hand and spray-painted finishes carefully applied at our workshop.

“Aside from producing bespoke cabinetry and kitchen design, our overall project management skills are second to none in the industry. We look after the clients' entire project from start to finish, and we use our knowledge and expertise to create the best solution possible for every project. The creative design team

guides clients through-out their design journey with the full package of 3d designs, as well as CAD plans and elevations. We pay attention to each step of the process from pricing, measuring, design, revisions, ordering, manufacturing, delivery to installation in order to really set off your kitchen and cabinetry from others. “We understand that the kitchen is a very personal purchase and that clients spend a lot of time and effort on researching



Enigma Design offer an unlimited range of designs and specifications

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Julia Winkler has come on board in a design and sales role and has already made a difference to the design team'

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their dream kitchen that is why we accommodate any style, colour, finish and budget in order to deliver a personalised product that is specifically built to suit your needs.

*“Whatever your taste or needs of the cabinetry may be, we have the expertise and skills to create custom made products to fulfil your visions”*

“At the moment, the popular styles of kitchens are contemporary flat panel style and traditional style kitchens, with clean lines and colours. We regularly get in 2019, especially with a combination of timber veneer cabinetry and stone worktop surfaces.

get many requests for contemporary colours, the muted greys and the natural pastel

You might be surprised how well dark cabinets can work in a space with its dramatic and luxurious feel.

“In recent years, we have also grown to be one of the biggest providers of bespoke cabinetry in Dublin and Wicklow. Particularly, cabinetry such as TV units, alcove units, bookcases, wardrobes, radiator covers, and shelving has become very popular and is now a large



Enigma Design accommodate any style, colour, finish and budget to deliver a personalised dream kitchen

part of our workload. “We build several TV units or living room units at any time, and the TV units are something we really specialise in. We install TV into the unit and provide an electrician to do the necessary prep work for the sockets and other AV equipment. We build units ranging in style from very contemporary chunky style units with built-in LED lighting, to more classical style units with a hand-painted finish.

“Our philosophy is in our passion for design and craftsmanship, and we are here to help you to transform your dream ideas into reality. We provide services to homes and businesses in Dublin and Wicklow areas, as well as further afield.

“All enquiries are welcome, and we recommend booking an appointment with us to ensure the best possible service.” Enigma Design is open Monday to

Friday from 9am to 5pm and Saturday from 9am to 1pm. For more information,

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# SUMMER RENOVATIONS

Late July and early August are traditionally the busiest times for home renovations. It's the middle of the summer break and while people take holidays from work, often they get those DIY and home improvement jobs done and dusted, that they've been putting off all year.

When you're thinking about making home improvements, one of the most important things to consider is which part of the home you want to improve first. Often, finances don't allow for every room in the house to be upgraded at one time. So whether it's a new bathroom you want the most, or a brand new living room, it's always best to make a list of where to start.

If it's a case that you may want to sell your home in the coming

months or years, perhaps it would be wise to consider what improvements will add the most value to the house. An attic conversion is always a good place to start. An extra bedroom adds value to any home and attic conversions are becoming more and more popular, often a cheaper alternative to an extension.

But for most of us who are not selling up and moving on, we want our home to be as comfortable and as nice as possi-

ble. Clearing out some old carpet and replacing the area with some hardwood flooring is always a cost-effective way to add a more modern feel to a room, and a fresh coat of paint always brightens up any room. There are a number of qualified painters and decorators locally who do not charge an arm & a leg, and can have your home painted to perfection while you're at work.

If you have a long list of things you want to get done in the home, tackling the smaller projects first could get you a nice head-start. Maybe you are saving for a new kitchen, but in the meantime, making some simple and cheap improve-

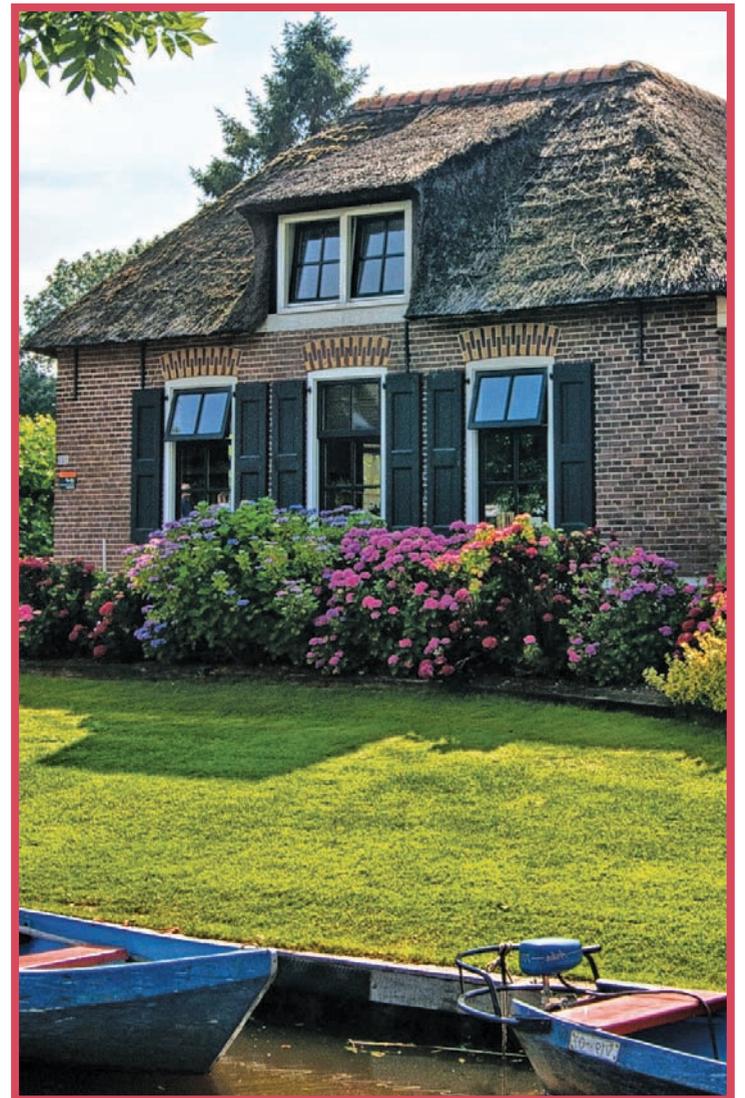
ments can help boost your living space. Some new appliances, light fittings or maybe a coat of paint can be a great way to get the ball rolling on home improvements. Don't feel like the biggest job needs to be first job. Sometimes it takes time to prepare and save some cash.

Remember to always pick the right person for the job. An age old saying that is so important. Finding the right contractor for your home improvements is as important as finding a good doctor or dentist. We always hear of horror stories of homeowners begin scammed by dodgy builders, but there are ways to make sure you don't hire the

wrong person. Make sure you ask for references, and that all contractors are certified and insured. Meet with them first, and make sure they understand exactly what you want. It is important that you feel comfortable with whoever is carrying out works in your home, which is another reason why having a good meeting with contractors before agreeing to anything, is highly advisable.

It's also worth remembering that while it's nice to get jobs done cheap, you get what you pay for. Make sure the price is reasonable, but if it's shockingly cheap, you may need to ask yourself why.

One of the worst



things you can do when it comes to home improvements is to start a project without the major details-cost, time, materials, and design-as realistic as possible from the start. Nothing costs more than

having to "change horses in midstream" (e.g., you want to move the fridge somewhere else now or want to change your tile choice). The key to successful home improvement is realistic plan-

ning. Make sure you know what you want, and make sure it's realistic to obtain what you're looking for. Summer is a perfect time to start and by the Autumn, you could have your dream home!

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# HOME & GARDEN SPECIAL

## ‘A bedroom should be cosy and relaxing’

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Since much of our time in the bedroom is spent relaxing or sleeping, many people prefer to choose calm and serene colours when it comes to the walls. This can mean choosing a more toned down version of whatet your preferred colour might be.

In the the bedroom, the ceiling takes on more importance than it does in other rooms, since many of us spend time looking up at it while lying in bed. You can make the ceiling more interesting simply with some added texture, colouring or design. Think of the ceiling as extra wall in the room rather than ignore it.

A bedroom should be cosy and relaxing, and

the positioning of the furniture can matter a great deal with regards to this. The bed shouldn’t be an obstacle you have to constantly walk around, and other items of furniture such as desks and dressers should be tailored according to the size of the room ; if the dresser is too large for example it will be too domineering in a smaller room. On the other hand, if your bedroom is large, small items of furniture will look lost.

Less is more when it comes to the amount of furniture in the bedroom. A bed, a bedside locker, a wardrobe and a dresser are generally thought of as essentials. A dresser can sometimes fit inside a wardrobe to maximise

space. If you have a TV in your bedroom, perhaps it can be mounted on the wall to save space also, and if you must have some shelving for books or dvds, this can be mounted on the wall as well. Many people also like to have a chair and desk in their bedroom, but be careful; clutter can accumulate very easily in the bedroom and the more surfaces there are, the more likely that is to happen. The option of adding drawers or boxes which fit under the bed is a great way to reduce clutter and store things out of sight. This is of particular importance when it comes to children’s bedrooms and the conundrum of where to put all those toys.

A reading chair can be a great addition to a bedroom, but if space won’t allow, then adding a window seat could be an option. Finishing touches can be provided with rugs, pictures on the walls, potted house plants and some ornaments.

Lighting in the bedroom is key to setting a certain mood or serving a function; many people like to have a dimmer switch for this reason, but additional lighting will most likely be required in the form of a bedside lamp for reading. Fairy lights are another way of adding additional lighting that can change the atmosphere of the room. Whatever your preference, it’s important to have options.



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# HOME & GARDEN SPECIAL

## ‘Skimping is a false economy’

Selecting doors and windows for your home and conservatory can be a daunting task because of the sheer choice that now exists. Not only is no home complete without them, but they also provide security, ventilation and restrict the entry of strong wind and other elements.

Do your homework before investing to ensure that you adhere to building regulations, buy the best quality within your budget and have them correctly installed.

Skimping too much on doors and windows is a false economy and can cause major problems in the future. It is recommended that you do some research and make your own decision

as to which to go for. Advice from builders should be welcomed but make sure you do your own homework as well. You may want to take into consideration the weather conditions of

where you live before choosing your doors and windows. Also keep in mind that windows and doors can help reduce your electricity bill. If fitted well they will help block the escape of heat

and stop the entry of cold wind from outside. Don't forget that the frames in which the windows and doors are fitted should be strong and the colour should be compatible with the home décor.

There are a number of materials to choose from including timber, aluminium, PVC, alu-clad/composites, steel and structural frameless glass. There are pros and cons to all possibilities depending on your house type.

It is worth remembering, that if you have existing timber frames in good condition, there are companies who can machine these in situ and fit real double glazed units into them. By doing this you get to keep your treasured timber and perhaps, avoid a lot of re-tiling, plastering and decorating.

Internal doors are another thing to consider. Recent years have seen an advancement of different and stylish



internal doors. As well as wood, they can be made of glass or steel. The front door gives a first impression of a home and a well chosen door can make your home stand out from the crowd as well as providing proper insulation and security.

The windows and doors of your conservatory are another area to consider. Conservatories have a number of uses whether it be as a play-

room, dining area, an office or something else. Light is key, and your choice of windows and doors can help maximize and manipulate its potential. Important decisions might include whether you want blinds on the windows, or if you want a glass roof that lets in the light, or a roof that shuts it out. Just as your conservatory should compliment your home, a conservatory's windows and

doors should also compliment, and are essential to, the style of the conservatory itself, whether it's a Victorian design, a Lean-To, a pavilion, Bespoke or Edwardian conservatory.

A quick look at the adverts on this page will give you a few ideas of businesses around the county that can help you out with choosing the perfect doors and windows for your home.

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# HOME & GARDEN SPECIAL

## HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Home maintenance and repair projects are projects that must be done to maintain the integrity and value of your home. They include areas like roofing, exterior painting, window upgrades and furnace upgrade. These should be carried out if needed before any interior repairs or renovations are considered.

Buyers expect a home with solid structure and systems, then they look for the cosmetic home improvements. Also, most home purchases now involve an independent home inspector who will be looking critically and objectively at your home's condition.

Doing a kitchen remodel home improvement project when your roof is leaking is like getting a facelift when you need heart bypass surgery. One is critical and one is not. If you don't have the structure and building systems in shape,

then expect to have the Buyer create their own value for it and have that deducted from their offer price, if you get an offer at all.

Here is a list of some important home maintenance and repair things to check for and have done before you try and sell.

**Roof and Flashing:** Make sure the roof does not leak. If leakage is occurring have it fixed immediately. It's probably a result of flashing failure. Check flashing around the chimney, walls, etc. Make sure broken shingles are

replaced. Check to make sure tree branches and leaves are not touching the roof.

**Chimney:** Make sure the bricks are not loose or missing mortar. If they are, have the bricks tuck-pointed to prevent water leakage and structural failure. Check that the roof flashing around the chimney is in good shape and does not have any gaps or openings for water to penetrate.

**Gutters and Downspouts:** Make sure these are clean and flowing well. If they are clogged, clean and flush the gutters

and downspouts. Clogged gutters are the source of many problems such as paint failure, leaks, wood rot, sagging gutters. Improper downspout outlets are also a problem that can cause water in the basement and cracked foundation walls. Make sure the downspout outlet drains away from the house on soil that is sloping away from the house. If downspouts are allowed to drain into the house or into crocks that run to the basement or foundation, water problems can occur including ground settlement resulting in cracking of the basement wall.

**Brick Wall:** Make sure that the brick wall is solid and in good repair. Replace damaged brick including cracked brick and tuckpoint any missing mortar joints.



**Foundation:** Repair any cracks in the foundation wall. If you see cracks check that the downspouts are not draining into the house foundation and footings. Downspouts and the yard should drain away

from the house. If the basement wall cracks are severe, you may need structural repairs including foundation underpinning. This is serious and you need to consult an expert foundation repair contractor.

**Plumbing Fixtures:** Check that the plumbing fixtures are in good working order. Identify the type of faucets you have and replace any leaking washers or cartridges if the faucet leaks. Check the

drainage of toilets and sinks and unclog as necessary.

**Furnace:** Make sure the furnace has clean air filters and is in good working order by performing a seasonal furnace checkup.

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# HOME & GARDEN SPECIAL

## ‘First impressions count’

First impressions count, so if your gutters are blocked, there are unattractive streaks on the front of your house, your paint job is looking a bit shabby or your windows are worse for wear, then this is the time to get busy and much of this work can be DIY.

There are many options when it comes to paint, flooring and wallpaper and it is important to choose the right one for you and your home. Whether it be wooden flooring, tiles or carpet, different people have their own preferences of what the most suitable type of floor for each room may be. You may want to give each room its own aesthetic or keep a common

theme going throughout all the rooms of the house. Tiles in the kitchen and bathroom are a popular choice, while elsewhere in the home the switch from carpet to wood or vice versa is a common change and improvement that many people make.

Those who have moved home due to site restrictions and planning

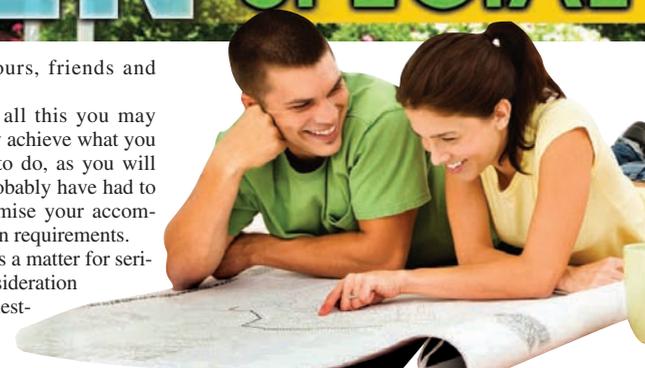
requirements may be faced with the task of having to do up an old house.

In this case, you will have costs such as redecoration, changing the kitchen fittings to your taste, electrical and plumbing works and so on. There will also be removal fees, solicitors' fees and the trauma of uprooting and leaving

neighbours, friends and family.

After all this you may not fully achieve what you set out to do, as you will most probably have had to compromise your accommodation requirements.

So it is a matter for serious consideration and a question of balance.





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# HOME & GARDEN SPECIAL

## EXTERIOR HOME IMPROVEMENTS

### Install a patio or garden decking

Make sure your garden is up to scratch for those long summer evenings and lazy weekend BBQs. Decking and patios are a great extension of indoor space and can provide a seating

and dining area; try shading with an awning and install lighting and outdoor heaters to make the most of the space. If you want outdoor areas for storage and growing fruit or vegetables, now is the perfect time to install that shed or greenhouse.

### Maintain your garden

General garden maintenance like mowing, weeding and repairing fencing is important too. Gardens can look untidy very quickly. Make sure that your lawn is well cared for, grass can suffer in extreme heat so you may

need to install a sprinkler system and fertilise regularly.

Check that your fencing, shed or greenhouse hasn't been damaged during the winter and Spring and clear the garden of debris. You may find that outdoor furniture and fittings are covered in mould or

mildew from the wet conditions, these can be easily cleaned with a soap and water mixture. Garden paths or driveways may also have come under attack from moss or algae, which is simple to remove too. Spring is a good time to repaint or stain outdoor furniture to protect it from further weather damage and to start composting.

clean your gutters too. Your roof is the most important part of your home; it has to be in good shape.

Spruce up the exterior of your weather-worn walls, but first, check that they don't have any cracks in them. Painting will also protect your home from damp - don't forget that window frames can also be transformed with a lick of paint or gloss. Painting your front door can also make a big difference to your home.

### Exterior home improvements

Warm, dry weather means you can carry out all those other exterior home improvements you've been putting off such as plastering, painting and cleaning outside walls, windows and doors. Don't forget to check the condition of your roof and

### Home extensions and conversions

Longer, drier summer days are ideal for large scale home extension and conversion projects. An extension means lots to organise, so consider hir-

ing an architect, quantity surveyor or project manager to keep everything on track. On the other hand, if you already have an unused loft or basement, why not convert that instead? Conversions are cheaper than extensions and eight times out of ten, they don't need planning permission. Conservatories are also a low budget way to resize your home.

### Lay a new driveway

If you are looking for a simple way to revamp the exterior of your property, then laying a new driveway could be the answer. There are a variety of driveway materials to choose from; tarmac, gravel or cement are low-

cost options, whereas stone or clay paving slabs are a more attractive but expensive driveway material.

### Skill Level

Make sure you start one at your level, which can help to make sure you finish it. If you are a beginner, which is you have never started a summer home project make sure to pick a small one with clear instructions that you can finish in a day. If you are at medium level, which is you started several summer home improvement projects and you finished all of them pick a small to medium size project you can finish in several days. If your skill level is higher, you can try for two to four small projects.



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# HOME & GARDEN SPECIAL

## Home building projects

The summer is a perfect time to paint and decorate, repair your roof or clean your gutters, and materials and skilled labour is readily available. Be aware, however, that when you undertake a project on your home you are making an important decision which will influence your daily life for many years. If you haven't got the DIY skills, then such an important investment will need the help of experts and professionals to avoid mistakes and to ensure that your needs and vision are properly realised.

The decision to improve your home is an important financial decision which requires commitment, thought and careful planning. People can be excused for being wary of home improvement but numerous people have been making the most of the economic downturn to negotiate better deals and get reasonably priced materials. Contractors eager for work will also be more willing to offer affordable rates. So get planning for your ideal home improvements now.

### The Architect's Role

According to the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland (R.I.A.I.), architects have the most appropriate training and experience to design, co-ordinate and manage your building project.

Your architect will advise on the design of your extension, or the refurbishment of your house, so that it is laid out economically and efficiently and will add to the value of your house and to your lifestyle.

As the client you are

part of the team and you need to maintain effective communication with your architect throughout the project so that he or she can act in your best interest at all times.

Extensions under a particular size may be exempt from the requirement to obtain Planning Permission and your architect will advise. Above this defined size, planning permission is necessary.

Your architect will apply on your behalf for the necessary permission. There can be difficulties with neighbours and you should not rule out the possibility of a planning appeal which will delay your project. Your architects will advise you on the correct procedures if an appeal is lodged against your project, if planning permission is refused or if you need to appeal against a condition in your permission.

In 1992 National Building Regulations were introduced covering aspects of construction.

You as a client, your architect and your contractor are legally obliged to comply with

these building regulations. Your architect will know which materials and construction systems will meet the requirements for each part of the building and will advise you on a cost effective solution.

### Extensions

Not everybody can afford the money and time to move to a bigger house. This is when you should look at building an extension. You will need to apply for planning permission (depending on size). A good indication of what will be allowed is to look around at any neighbours' existing extensions and see what has previously been allowed.

Figure out what kind of space will be of the most benefit. For some this will be an additional bedroom while others it will be additional living space.

Make sure you set a realistic budget and leave some money over for contingencies. With few exceptions, building work will almost always cost more than you plan for.

It is worth remembering, when it comes

to door and window frames in good condition, that there are companies who can machine these in situ and fit real double glazed units into them. By doing this, you get to keep your treasured timber and perhaps avoid a lot of retiling, plastering and decorating.

Assuming space is available either to the side or over an existing garage, in the attic or in the garden surrounding your home, the room(s) you add should help to enhance your living environment and fit it with the smooth planning of your existing layout.

There may be problems with overlooking and objections from neighbours that need to be overcome. Early discussions with neighbours, informing them of your intention to build, generally receives approval, however, there is always an exception.

If you are happy with your present house layout and have the necessary room to extend to give you the extra rooms you require this is probably the least expensive way to build.



## Summer gardening tips

Eager gardeners are rushing out to make hay while the sun shines. To enjoy hassle-free gardening, follow a few of these simple steps to ensure your garden works for you over the summer months.

Succulents make outstanding container plants because of their striking and quirky colours and forms. Sedum, Sempervivum (hens and chicks), Echeveria and Aeonium are perfect for the job. Plain and simple works best when it comes to containers - terra cotta is ideal, allowing the eye to focus on the plant instead of the pot. Place your succulents where their intricacies will be appreciated. Natural elements such as beach glass, coloured rocks, sand and bits of driftwood complement these low-maintenance plants.

Coax a second bloom from summer perennials like phlox, delphinium, "true" geranium, aster and some types of veronica. Cut stems down by half, using blooms in the vase, and you'll likely get another flush of flowers in the autumn.

Lightly prune shrubs after they're done flowering. Trim dead wood anytime - a satisfying activity with a nice sharp pair of pruners.

Avoid scalping your lawn. If you allow grass to grow a little longer, removing no more than one-third at each mowing, the taller grass will dominate the weeds, and you'll have less of them.

Gardening seems natural enough, but children (adults too) need to learn to water low - on the soil, not the leaves - and not a fairy sprinkle but a long, slow drink. Frequent shallow watering encourages roots to grow towards the surface, making plants especially vulnerable in hot weather. Irrigate in the morning.

For those berries to be made into jam, layer singly on a paper towel. A cool, well-ventilated room is best for short-term storage, rather than the fridge. Washing promotes cell-wall breakdown, so rinse if you must but only before using. Your garden is full of summer bounty, so who wants to think about winter? Nevertheless, light levels begin to wane in August, and growth slows.

This fall you will need sturdy seedlings ready for transplanting into empty spots in your garden for over-wintering, so seed transplants of kale, winter cabbage and Swiss chard by the third week of August.

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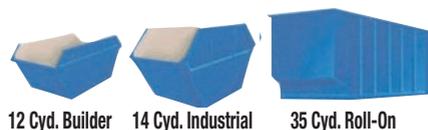
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Pictured at Woodenbridge Golf Club for the 25th 'Play in Pink' golf tournament in aid of fighting breast cancer were Paula Tanham, Mary Hennerby, Deirdre Healy-Byrne (Woodenbridge Lady Captain), Erika Reilly of She Boutique, Arklow, Craig Lewis (PGA), Marie Cullen, Michelle Doran, Anne Mernagh and Pauline Smith.

## 'Walk while you can' says Bray resident Claire Byrne

When the remarkable Fr. Tony Coote did his extraordinary walk last year from Donegal to Cork - some 550 kilometres - he raised over €600,000 for Motor Neurone Disease.

From these miraculous funds, IMNDA were able to hire a much needed fourth outreach nurse to care and support people living with Motor



Bray resident Claire Byrne

Neurone Disease in Ireland. This has been invaluable, allowing IMNDA's nursing team to reach more people in the community more often. The outreach nursing service provided by the IMNDA helps over 370 people and families spread across 26 counties. This is the only service of its kind in the country and it is funded entirely from public donations.

There are 12 people living with MND in Co Wicklow so they are calling on you and your loved ones to get walking together once more and continue what Tony started.

They are encouraging people to get their family and friends on board and be part of something special by taking part in their own Walk While You Can for MND. Or if not, join them in the Phoenix Park on Saturday 14th September at 11am for their 5k Walk While You Can. It is only

€20 per adult, €5 for 12 - 16 year olds and U12's go free. You can register online by simply visiting [www.imnda.ie](http://www.imnda.ie)

Bray resident, Claire Byrne, Broadcaster with RTE and this year's Walk While You Can Ambassador will be joining them on the day and is asking you to get involved. Her personal friendship with Fr. Tony means she is continuing his fight. "Please join me on September 14th at 11am in the Phoenix Park. Your support means vital funds will be raised to provide people who have MND with the crucial support and care that they and their families need and deserve. I'll be doing my bit and walking on September 14th. Together we can make a difference!"

There are currently over 378 people living with MND in Ireland. MND is often referred to as the 1,000-day disease as most people die within 1,000 days of first symp-

toms. 1 person dies every 3 days from MND.

Roisin Duffy, CEO of IMNDA says 'It's so important to keep people in their own homes. They need the care and support of their close family and friends and they need to remain active in their community. Our outreach nursing service, along with our other key supports, enables us to do this. And that's why we desperately need you to join us on the 14th September in the Phoenix Park so we can raise the crucial funds needed to continue caring and supporting our MND community.

'And if that date doesn't suit, you can always organise your own Walk While You Can event in support of your local MND community. Just get in touch with us and we'll send you out a special fundraising pack with all the information you'll need to start you on your way' Roisin added.

## 'Council must take action to stop illegal dumping at the Murrough'

Wicklow Sinn Féin TD John Brady has called on Wicklow County Council to take immediate action to stop the ongoing illegal dumping at The Murrough in Wicklow Town and have the waste deposited there removed.

Deputy Brady said "Unfortunately the illegal dumping at The Murrough has been ongoing now over a considerable period of time. What appears to be a mixture of commercial and household rubbish is being brought to the scenic location in Wicklow Town and dumped, with most of it being burnt.

"Wicklow County Council is aware of the issue; it has also been reported to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The dumping has been allowed to drag on too long and the Council must now take immediate actions to stop the dumping and have the area cleaned up.

"The Murrough is not just a beautiful location that's widely used by many; it's also an environmentally important area. It is covered by National and European protection designations such

as 'Special Protection Area', in 2018 it was designated a 'Special Area of Conservation', the area is also a proposed 'National Heritage Area' and 'Flora Protection Order'. So the illegal dumping that's ongoing there is destroying a valuable public amenity and an environmentally important area."

Deputy Brady concluded "The perpetrators of this environmental vandalism must also be held to account and they must face the full riggers of the law. I would also ask people to be mindful of handing their rubbish over to people who knock on their door and offer to remove any waste they may have. These operators should be asked for a waste permit, otherwise it will more than likely end up at The Murrough and beautiful places like it."



John Brady TD at the site of some illegal dumping on The Murrough

## Report details importance of racing to local economy

The horse breeding and racing industry in counties Wicklow and Wexford support over 1,600 jobs in the two counties. This is the key finding of a Regional Economic Impact Study conducted by Horse Racing Ireland and Deloitte.

The study highlights the economic reach of the industry in the counties - generating an economic return of €84m per annum - and has found that the breeding industry in both counties operates at a particularly high level.

Over 750 breeders are registered in Wicklow and Wexford, with the focus on National Hunt breeding. The registered broodmare population is in excess of 1,450 and the region produces over 900 foals every year. Total breeding revenue comes in at €29m, with the majority of this figure, €27m, derived from bloodstock sales.

There are 53 trainers in the region and between them they are responsible for close to 400 horses. Paul Nolan, the Cheltenham Festival winning trainer and a three-time winner of the Galway Hurdle, runs a hugely successful yard close to Enniscorthy. The

likes of Liz Doyle, Colin Bowe and Philip Rothwell are also regular visitors to the winners' enclosure while Cheltenham Festival winning trainer Colm Murphy has recently renewed his licence and will operate once again from his Gorey base.

Champion trainers Aidan O'Brien and Jim Bolger are both Wexford natives and maintain strong links with the county. The point-to-point industry in Ireland is at its strongest in the region with the likes of Bowe, Donnchadh Doyle, Denis Murphy, Sean Doyle, Liam Kenny and Cormac Doyle all producing horses of the highest quality. Recent Cheltenham Festival winners Envoi Allen, Samcro and the Arkle winner Western Warhorse have all begun their careers in County Wexford. Wexford Racecourse has undergone major transformation in recent years, becoming a National Hunt-only venue in June 2016.

Cllr.  
Mags

# CREAN

A big 'THANK YOU' to all who voted for me in the local election. I am delighted to serve as a strong, independent & progressive voice for our community. If I can be of help on any issue, please get in touch.

Tel: 087 1032446  
Email: [MCrean@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:MCrean@wicklowcoco.ie)  
[www.magscrean.ie](http://www.magscrean.ie)

INDEPENDENT



# IT'S ALL ON SHOW AT TINAHELY

As the second largest agricultural show in Ireland, the Tinahely show attracts more than 20,000 visitors each year and with good reason. The show captures the essence of rural Ireland with a huge range of entertainment, livestock competitions, equestrian competitions, arts & crafts, family entertainment and the best of Irish food produce. This year is no exception and the line-up promises to be one of the best featuring familiar favourites and some exciting new displays.



The Camphill Ballymoney basket weavers were at the launch of the Tinahely Show, which takes place on 5th August

### Dancing with country music legends

Enjoy five hours of dancing on the giant dance floor with country music legends Derek Ryan and his band; Olivia Douglas, Stuart Moyles, Theresa and the Stars and dancing with Declan. Enjoy traditional Irish Music with our local Tinahely Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann (CCE) and Irish dancing with Caroline L. Fleming Academy.

### Fashion Show with compère Marietta Doran

Back by popular demand, Rathwood will host a fashion show again this year featuring the latest fashions from Rathwood, Deirdre Minogue and Oonagh Conroy and compèred by the ever stylish Marietta Doran.

### Everyday Wellness

This exciting new feature will bring some

accessible physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellness information to show visitors and will include; energy healing therapists; physical therapists; sound therapy; healthy eating; and as well as group talks and demonstrations.

### Livestock competitions

The Tinahely Show features a wide range of livestock competitions including national championships with a €14,000

prize fund. A major highlight in the cattle section will be hosting of the €4,000 Irish Pedigree Belgian Blue Calf Championship sponsored by FBD Insurances, Bank of Ireland and Tinahely Agricultural Show Society. The Belgian Blue Crossbred Finals will also attract entries from all over Ireland. The highlight of the commercial cattle section is the Zurich Insurance PLC Commercial Championship Beef Bullock or non-pedigree Beef Heifer All Age any Breed, which boasts a handsome €2,500 prize fund. This section will also feature the Derek Rothwell Memorial Stockperson of the Year Championship.

Wicklow's great sheep tradition will be evident at this year's show with a range of classes including Cheviot, Jacob, Charollais, Lley, Texel, Zwartbles, Suffolk, Crossbred and



Four strong candidates will be battling it out to be crowned Tinahely Show Queen 2019 at the Wicklow County Show on August bank holiday Monday. The four girls showed great personality and character during their interview by Warren Furlong in front of a packed house on on Friday 19th July. The contestants are Theresa Devitt Durkin from Rathdrum, a student at Maynooth University and member of the Aughrim Sheep Breeders; Sarah Mary Kealy from Hacketstown, also a student; Eimear Cox from Arklow, a dance teacher; Justyne Lawless from Tinahely a student and an intern with PwC.

Commercial classes. The Pygmy Goat classes will include male/female kid, adult female and goatling classes. The Poultry Section will feature bantams, large fowl, water fowl and chicken classes.

### Pets' Corner

Always a firm favourite for our young visitors' the pets corner features a wide range of common and unusual pets from; donkeys, rabbits, farm animals, pheasants, puppies and snakes to hairless cats. Entries are taken on the day before 10:00am. The dog show is always a popular attraction for all the family and entries will be taken on the day.

### Equestrian

The Red Mills Non-Thoroughbred Two-Year-Old Gelding All Ireland Championship is sponsored by Red Mills and Goresbridge and offers a grand prize fund of 3,000. Show Jumping for registered horses and ponies will take place on show day in the show jumping arenas. The exciting Pony Club Games team competitions are always a crowd pleaser and will take place from 2.00pm. Donkey classes are also available and entries can be made through the Tinahely Show office.

### Guinness World record attempt

The mighty Michael O'Brien from county Clare will attempt to set a new Guinness World record in the sheaf tossing, having set many records down through the years Michael is at the pinnacle of his career and feels the time is now right to attempt this great feat.

### Arts and Crafts

The Home Industries and Quilt marquees are always a firm favourite and feature the best of rural Ireland's talent in crafts, baking, art, farm, garden and photography. The junior marquee showcases the entries from the next generation of craftspeople.

With over 200 trade stands, the IFA Food hall; talent shows; the wool corner; craft village; food court; vintage section; Tinahely Show Queen; Sheaf tossing; tractor pulling; and dog shows there is something for everyone at the Tinahely Agricultural Show.

### Entries

Online entries are now open at [www.tinahelyshow.ie](http://www.tinahelyshow.ie) Early bird tickets are

also available online for only €12.50. For further information visit [www.tinahelyshow.ie](http://www.tinahelyshow.ie) or contact the show office at [info@tinahelyshow.ie](mailto:info@tinahelyshow.ie)

**ANDREW DOYLE TD**  
Minister of State for Food, Forestry & Horticulture  
Wishing every success to the  
84th Tinahely Agricultural Show  
FINE GAEL

Andrew Doyle TD - Minister of State for Food, Forestry and Horticulture  
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine  
Wicklow/East Carlow Constituency  
2a The Lower Mall, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow, A67 EH66  
Ph: 0404 66622 / 01 607 2977 E: [andrew.doyle@oireachtas.ie](mailto:andrew.doyle@oireachtas.ie) / [minister.doyle@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:minister.doyle@agriculture.gov.ie)

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Best Wishes to the Tinahely Show

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Best Wishes to all at Tinahely Show

John **BRADY TD**



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Sinn Féin Office  
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Tel: 0402-41853.  
Tues-Thurs 10am-3pm

Email: [john.brady@oireachtas.ie](mailto:john.brady@oireachtas.ie)

**MINISTER SIMON HARRIS**  
'See you at the show'  
Contact me for advice, support or assistance on any matter  
Call the Bray office on 01 2813727  
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Evan, Yvonne, Kale, Sam, and Trevor Conyard who took part in the Wicklow Hospice Colour Run at the Murrrough

# Summer weather lifting spirits for Wicklow hoteliers

Tourism figures reached record levels last year. However, early indications for 2019 from hotels and guesthouses in Wicklow and across the country are that it will be challenging for the industry to maintain the growth of recent years.

According to the latest industry survey from the Irish Hotels Federation (IHF), the domestic market is holding and US business levels are continuing to rise. However, the continental Europe market shows signs of softening while business levels from the UK market are still falling. Mr Brian McNamara, Chair of the Wicklow branch of the IHF states that the heightened risk of a disruptive Brexit is a serious concern for the tourism industry.

Other major concerns highlighted include reduced competitiveness due to increases in the cost of doing business and the hike in tourism VAT. These reflect the findings of the Crowe Ireland Annual Hotel Survey which showed that many costs are increasing faster than the underlying growth in revenues. Some 62% of IHF members have seen further increases in insurance costs over the last 12 months in addition to substantial increases in recent years. Meanwhile the VAT increase has led many hoteliers to take a more cautious approach to investment with over half postponing or scaling back their plans.

According to the IHF survey, almost two-thirds (64%) of hoteliers say domestic business levels are holding with some reporting increases compared to this time last year. This market is of particular importance to regional tourism, where the recovery has been slower. Further afield, the

US market continues to perform strongly with almost four in ten (38%) of hoteliers reporting increases in business. However, there are signs of a slowdown in growth from continental Europe. Closer to home, 62% have seen a drop in business levels from Northern Ireland while almost three quarters of hoteliers (73%) report a fall-off from Great Britain.

Mr McNamara states: "With the prospect of a prolonged and disruptive Brexit looming, the Government must not disregard the importance of tourism. The industry plays a vital role as an engine of growth and regional economic balance, supporting over 266,000 jobs throughout the country, 70% of which are outside Dublin. Here in Wicklow it supports 13,900 jobs and contributes some €174m to the local economy annually"

"Yet, we continue to have a two-tiered tourism industry, which Government policy is failing to address. There are parts of the industry that are performing well though the rate of growth appears to be slowing. However, not every tourism business or part of the country is enjoying the same level of success. There are many areas where tourism remains very seasonal and hospitality businesses struggle to break even during off-peak periods. These businesses can ill afford to take another economic hit. The Government

must take decisive action to mitigate the impact of Brexit and address the other serious challenges we face with the high cost of doing business in Ireland," he added.

"Tourism is an exceptionally competitive activity. We compete daily for business at both a domestic and international level and every tourism Euro spent by overseas and domestic tourists in Ireland is hard won. Maintaining our competitiveness is absolutely vital to sustaining the growth of the industry."

Following calls from the Irish Hotels Federation, the Government has committed to the introduction of a Tourism Satellite Account within the Central Statistics Office (CSO). Mr McNamara is urging the Government to prioritise its implementation. "With tourism heading into more difficult times, it is essential that policy makers have a complete and accurate picture of the industry. This account would provide a full analysis of the economic activity in the tourism industry and show how much it contributes to each county throughout

the country to inform future taxation and economic policy," he said.

Breakdown of business levels across markets compared to this time last year:

Domestic market: 32% of hotels and guesthouses are reporting an increase in visitor numbers from across Ireland compared to this time last year with 32% seeing no change and 36% noting a decrease.

Britain: Only 8% are noting an increase in visitor numbers from Britain, with 19% seeing no change, and 73% seeing a decrease.

Northern Ireland: 10% of premises are noting an increase with 28% saying they have seen no change, while 62% see a decrease.

United States: 38% of premises are noting an increase; while 30% have seen no change and 32% note a decrease.

Germany: 20% of hotels and guesthouses are reporting an increase, with 46% saying they have seen no change and 34% seeing a decrease.

France: 15% of hotels and guesthouses are noting an increase, with 55% saying they have seen no change and 30% seeing a decrease.

## Citizen's Information Clinic

The Citizens Information Centre at the Brockagh Resource Centre, Laragh is open for information relating to your rights and entitlements from 10 am until noon on the first and third Tuesday of each month. No appointment is necessary for this free and confidential service.

## Walking group in the Brockagh

On Monday mornings weekly at 10am join the Laragh walking group at the Brockagh Resource Centre for a walk around Glendalough area for approximately one hour.

## The Boat Yard Gallery Summer Market

The Boat Yard Gallery Summer Market takes place beside the Beach House at Greystones Harbour Marina each Sunday throughout the summer, from 11am to 5:30pm. There is a wide variety of arts & crafts items available.

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## HEATWAVE WARNING

The Asthma Society of Ireland is warning the 8,138 people in Wicklow who have both asthma and hayfever in Ireland to take precautions when going on holidays this summer.

A heatwave across Europe could cause problems for Irish people with hayfever and asthma if they are on holidays in areas affected by the heatwave. The Asthma Society has teamed up with Dyson Ireland to launch its Pollen Tracker on asthma.ie providing a daily update of pollen levels as well as a downloadable Asthma Action Plan.

### Holidays with Asthma and Hayfever:

Speak to the Asthma Society's free Asthma and COPD Advice Line on 1800 44 54 64 or talk to a doctor or pharmacist prior to your holiday. Don't wait until you feel unwell or until you are abroad as the language difference can pose a challenge in getting the right treatment. Ensure that you have an Asthma Attack Card with you and that both you and your travel companions know what to do in case of an asthma emergency.

### If the Pollen Count is high, you should:

- Keep windows and doors closed especially at night.
- Stay indoors as much as possible.
- Stay away from grassy areas, especially when grass is freshly cut.
- Put Vaseline around your nostrils to trap pollen.
- Wear wraparound sunglasses to stop pollen getting into your eyes.
- Shower, wash your hair and change your clothes if you have been outside.
- Avoid drying clothes outdoors or shake them out before bringing them in.
- Minimise your contact with animals that have been outdoors.



Pictured are Sarahjane Cullen & Damien Wildes from Glassnamullen who were married last Friday in Kilruddery House.

## PLANNING • PLANNING • PLANNING • PLANNING

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

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

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplansdesign.com) Seeks planning permission for single storey extension and conversion of garage and part of existing dwelling to apartment, and associated works at Fuinseoige, Ashdown, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow for D. and M. Jameson. 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 retention of outbuilding containing home office and bedroom ancillary to dwelling, retention of conservatory, infill entrance porch, and two bay windows to front of house, proposed new waste water treatment system to EPA standards in lieu of existing septic tank and associated works at Sweetbank, Tiglin, Newcastle, Co. Wicklow for J. Quirke. 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 single storey farm dwelling, garage, revised entrance to farm, waste water treatment system to EPA standards and associated works at Bonagrew, Brittas Bay, Co. Wicklow for K. Sunderland. 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

Planning permission is sought for retention of shared domestic Biocycle wastewater/sewage treatment system at Ireland's House and Ireland's Cottage, Ballinastoe, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow (Postcode A98C5Y2), for Joyce Keeley. The application includes retention of the conversion of an existing stable area to form ground and first floor bedroom accommodation for Ireland's House, and the retention of revised elevations to both Ireland's House and Ireland's Cottage. 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.

## Boil Water Notice lifted for Avoca

Following consultation with the Health Service Executive, Irish Water and Wicklow County Council confirmed last Tuesday that the Boil Water Notice for the area supplied by the Avoca Ballinacash Public Water Supply has been lifted following the results of drinking water quality tests.

The Boil Water Notice had been put in place as a precautionary measure following a failure in the treatment process which impacted on the UV disinfection treatment at the Water Treatment Plant serving the Avoca Ballinacash Public Water Supply.

Irish Water have completed the installation of a number of upgrades at the plant to prevent this failure from happening again and to safeguard the future water supply for the area. Verification works, including sampling, have been carried out and, following consultation with the HSE, the Boil Water Notice has now been lifted.

Irish Water stated "We wish to thank the community for their patience and cooperation while we worked to resolve this issue."



## CATERING ASSISTANTS

Get Fresh Catering are now recruiting for the above position to join our team in providing Catering Services at the following catering facilities when the schools re-commence in August 2019.

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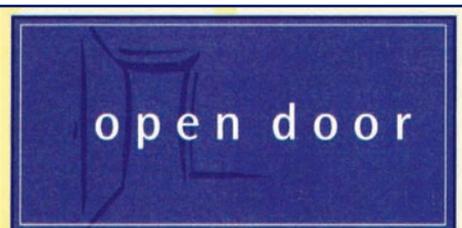
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Closing date for applications, Friday 9th August 2019  
Only applicants short listed for interview will be contacted.  
All CV's received will be kept strictly confidential and only visible to our HR Department.



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