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Tuesday 27th August 2019

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IT'S A LOTTO MONEY!

Jubilant celebrations were underway last Friday at the lucky Spar Service Station in Enniskerry, after the National Lottery confirmed that they sold the winning ticket for Wednesday night's massive €11,255,280 jackpot prize.

The winning Quick Pick ticket was sold on the day of the draw (Wednesday) at the Spar Service Station on Monastery Road. At the time of going to press, the National Lottery were still waiting to hear from the lucky winner.

Since the inception of the Lotto game in 1988, there have been 55 Lotto jackpot winners in Co. Wicklow, amounting to a massive €87.2 million in jackpot prizes alone.

Ken O'Connor who is the owner of the lucky Spar store is no stranger to Lotto jackpot joy hav-

ing previously sold a Lotto jackpot ticket worth €5.7 million at another of his Spar stores in Rathfarnham, last October.

The delighted shop owner said "We just can't believe it! We heard the news yesterday that the winning ticket was sold in Wicklow but we had no idea it was us until last night, it's just fantastic. The shop is absolutely buzzing this morning and I am just thrilled for our customers and of course our staff.

"Just last year, we

sold another winning Lotto ticket worth €5.7 million at another one of our stores in Rathfarnham in Dublin so we're definitely a lucky retailer for our customers. Whoever the winner is, we wish them every bit of luck enjoying this life-changing win," he said.

Despite the celebrations at the winning Spar Service Station in Enniskerry, a National Lottery spokesperson confirmed that it is still waiting to hear from the lucky winner of the €11.2 million prize.



National Lottery representative Jim O'Connor sprays the champagne and celebrates with Ken O'Connor (centre), owner of Spar Texaco Service Station and Spar Express in Enniskerry, with staff, as the National Lottery reveals that the winning ticket for the €11m jackpot was sold at the store.

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He said, "The National Lottery are still waiting to hear from the lucky ticketholder of this truly incredible prize. It is possible that the winner is still unaware that they may be in possession of the winning ticket so we are encouraging anybody who has a ticket, to check it carefully and to contact our prize claims team on 01 836 4444 and we will make arrangements for you to collect your prize."

The mega jackpot win is the 15th highest jackpot since the Lotto was launched in 1988 and last week's lucky ticketholder from the Garden County becomes the 6th Lotto jackpot winner of 2019.

So far this year, 14 brand new millionaires have been created by Lotto and Lotto Plus games.

The winning numbers

were 10, 13, 23, 24, 25, 44 and bonus number was 12.

This jackpot was close to being shared as another Laois player fell one number short, matching five numbers and the bonus ball. This lucky player has won €134,412.

A National Lottery spokesperson also confirmed that the Good Causes Fund was perhaps the biggest winner with funds raised in the most recent jackpot roll.

"This jackpot has been rolling since Wednesday 12th June and since then Lotto sales alone have raised approximately €18.6 million for Good Causes all over Ireland. For over 32 years, this fund has been allocated to support worthwhile causes and local community projects across the country."

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Your Local Enterprise Office Wicklow has just launched its

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Phone: 0404 30800 Email: enterprise@leo.wicklowcoco.ie

European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

Let's talk business



Pictured: Yasmin Kelly and Jordi Butterworth at the Release Wellness Fun Day in Arklow

Co Wicklow PPN to host free training fair for community groups

Last year Co Wicklow PPN held its first training fair and its biggest community event to date. It was so beneficial to community groups and volunteers that they asked if Co Wicklow PPN would make it an annual event.

Hoping to build on last year's success, this year's training fair will take place on Saturday 21st September in The Brockagh Centre, Laragh.

Workshops this year include: Funding your group; Getting the most out of Social Media; Charitable Status & the Governance Code; Running effective meetings; Mental health & wellbeing in the community; GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation); Good govern-

nance - where to start; Health & Safety for your group; and Attracting Volunteers. The spotlight on a PPN member group will showcase Laragh/Glendalough Tidy Towns and their work as a tidy towns committee, setting up a sustainable energy community and establishing a community garden. A visit to the community garden will be included. There will be lots of information stands from organisations that support community

groups and lunch will be provided with contributions from local community cafés.

Helen Howes, Resource Worker for Co Wicklow PPN said, "We were delighted with the feedback we got from last year's event. Groups and volunteers seemed to get so many benefits from the workshops, exhibition stands and the networking and peer support. This year is also built around what our member groups indicated they need help

with and we hope it will be every bit as good if not better!"

This is a free event and booking is essential. Five of the ten workshops are already booked out and waiting lists have been started in case of cancellations. To book a workshop go to the Co Wicklow PPN website www.countywicklowppn.ie, click the Training Fair tab on the top of the page and use the online form. Alternatively call Grainne on 086 048 7434.

What's Happening...

Greystones Film Club

There will be a back to school treat on 30th August with a screening of Pixar's Up, in the Whale Theatre in Greystones, at 3pm. It is the 10th anniversary of this much loved Pixar masterpiece. There will be a special video introduction by writer/director Pete Doctor.

Nordic Walking Classes

Take up a new exercise for autumn and get fitter and see some fabulous scenery. Nordic Walking uses two poles and exercises the upper body as well as the legs and gets you moving in the great outdoors. Join the 10.30am walk in Kilruddery on Saturday mornings. The group walks for about two hours and enjoys great views in this lovely old estate. You need loose waterproof clothing, boots/trail shoes and €8. Poles are supplied. For more information/to book a place contact Dairine at 086 1936861 or email dnuttall@eircom.net

Shankill Classical Music Club

The first monthly meeting of the 2019-20 season will be on Wed 4th October. Classical music on CDs: all genres - orchestral, instrumental, vocal, opera etc. The venue is the Shankill Day Centre, Lower Rd, Shankill, 7.45-10pm. Visitors and new members always welcome. The cost is €2 on the night, tea and biscuits at the interval. Just come along, or see further details of the club on www.shankillclassical.org, or ring or text John on 087-2109175.

Summer stars Finale at Wicklow Library

There will be a puppet and magic show with Joe McMahon in Wicklow branch library from 3pm-4pm on Friday 30th August. The certificates for the Summer Stars programme will also be presented.

Bray guided meditation session

Learn and practice advanced guided meditation techniques to help enhance physical, mental and emotional wellbeing, reduce stress and feel calm and in control of your thoughts and emotions. Open to all over the age of 18. The August session will take place in Ballywaltrim Community Centre, Boghall Road, Bray between 7 and 8PM on the last Tuesday of the month, Tuesday 27th. No fee to attend (donation box only). For details ring/text Shideh on 0876710903 or Audra on 0879418941.

Enniskerry Victorian Festival

The annual Victorian festival in Enniskerry will be held on Sunday 8th September, from 11am to 5pm. Money raised will go to Purple House Cancer Support and Enniskerry First Responders.

This year's Victorian Field Day will be the biggest yet! There will be a greatly expanded kids area, with loads of bouncy castles, inflatable obstacle courses, bungee trampolines, fairground, pony rides, kids races, games,

face painting and much, much more! There's plenty to keep the young-at-heart occupied too! Browse the Craft & Art Fair, watch sheepdog duck herding (yes!), admire the vintage cars, enjoy the live music and

dancing, dine at the food village, or watch the Soapbox Derby, to mention just a few! See enniskerryfestival.ie for more details. Adults E10. Kids and parking FREE.

Glencree Peace Walk to take place in September

The third Glencree Peace Walk will take place on Sunday 22 September to raise much needed funds for the work of the Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation. The walk will start at 12pm.

Walkers will gather at the Glencree Peace and Reconciliation Centre and will be bussed to and from the start and finish. The walk will be led by an experienced leader. Afterwards there

will be a BBQ and some live music at the Glencree centre. The walk consists of an easy five-mile hike along the Wicklow Way on a wide, well-marked path between Glencullen

(Boranaraltry Bridge) and Glencree (Curtlestown Forest car park). Please bring strong walking boots or shoes (not runners) and rainproof clothing. This walk is not appropriate for children under 7 or dogs.

Glencree has been working for peace in Northern Ireland and other conflict areas since 1974. It played an important role in the Northern Ireland peace process, bringing the warring sides together for numerous confidential face-to-face meetings between 1994 and 2007.

Fireside chat with Wicklow actor

Actor/Musician Kevin Olohan from Wicklow town embarked on a new venture last Thursday in the Bellobar in Dublin, with an appearance on the very first live show of Fireside, the Irish Storytelling Podcast.



Kevin Olohan

As Kevin points out, the Irish are a nation of storytellers who tell stories from the past, present and future.

On this very successful podcast Kevin was the host, taking stories from folklore and mythology, retelling them in his own words and chatting about the craft culture and history of storytelling.

The live show, the first of its type, was presented on stage in the Bellobar. The theme was beginnings.

Kevin was joined by some special guests for an entertaining evening of stories and plenty of tunes.



Pictured last week after their wedding in Kiltarnan were bride Ruth Thornhill and new husband David Beagon, with the bride's parents Brendan (former Cathaoirleach Bray Municipal District) and Bridie Thornhill.

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Fast track application lodged for 759 new homes in Arklow

Plans for 759 new homes in Arklow have been lodged with An Bord Pleanála, under the new fast track planning mechanism. The Board is due to make a decision by October 17th for the development, which is proposed for the Kilbride area of Arklow. It will consist of 759 residential units, 515 houses, 166 duplex apartments, 78 apartments and a crèche.

The application was made by Lioncor Developments, who are also leading the Southern Cross development in Bray that is due to start shortly.

The Strategic Housing Development Scheme (SHD) sees applications being lodged directly with An Bord Pleanála instead of through the local planning department. It was introduced in 2017 to speed up the planning

process. Any application of 100+ housing units or 200+ student spaces/shared accommodation can be made directly to the Board.

Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District Pat Fitzgerald (FF) said while he welcomed much needed housing in Arklow, but the infrastructural aspects, particularly regarding traffic, need to be addressed.

"We absolutely need

houses in Arklow, with hundreds of local people on the housing list, said Councillor Fitzgerald.

"However it is vital that the correct infrastructure is put in place, particularly with regard to traffic. Another exit is needed from the north side of the town. The town already struggles with traffic as it is. There are also two colleges due to be built in the same area and it

will be chaotic unless this is dealt with. It has to be right at the planning stage. We can't clog up the town completely to provide houses."

Councillor Fitzgerald also said that the long-awaited sewage treatment plant must be completed in the planned timeframe. Work is due to start in 2021 with a year's preparatory work taking place in the interim.



Pictured: New Arklow RNLI volunteer Sinead Myler and her father Jimmy

Irish Rail called on to prioritise accessibility at stations

Wicklow TD Minister Simon Harris has called on Irish Rail to upgrade the lift facilities at their train stations in order to prevent people with mobility issues being left without access.

Minister Harris has noticed a significant increase the number of out of order elevators along the train line and wants urgent action to prevent further difficulty for passengers.

Speaking on the issue, Minister Harris said "Public transport is vital for our population in Co

Wicklow and especially for people with disabilities and mobility issues. Our trains and Darts are not accessible if the elevators are out of order and unfortunately this seems to be



Minister Simon Harris

happening more and more. A fault in any of the lifts on the train line discommodates lots

of passengers and causes considerable stress.

"I am really eager to see this issue resolved. I have recently contacted Irish Rail to highlight my concerns and seek urgent action to improve the service."

Minister Simon Harris continued "Public transport should be available to everyone. I am very concerned that many wheelchair users, those

with mobility difficulties and parents with prams are unable to access lifts at many railway stations."

Minister Harris has asked that constituents let him know if they notice lifts out of order in local train stations so he can report them to Irish Rail. You can contact his office at simon.harris@oir.ie



ARKLOW

All 3 groups meet here:
Bridgewater Shopping Centre
Level 2, Arklow
Tuesdays at 8 and 10am
Call Lorraine on 087 1552974
Tuesdays at 5:30 and 7:30pm
Call Sarah on 083 1503623
Wednesdays at 5:30 and 7:30pm
Call Clare on 087 1722536

BLESSINGTON

Blessington Further Education Centre,
Blessington
Wednesdays at 5:30 and 7:30pm
Call Sinead on 085 1224626

BRAY

Coffee Delights, IDA Business Park
Southern Cross, Bray
Wednesdays at 9:30am
Saturdays at 9:30am
Call Grainne O'Toole on 086 4661566
Coffee Delights, IDA Business Park
Southern Cross, Bray
Wednesdays at 5:30 and 7:30pm
Call Alison on 085 2727 541

Bray Wheelers Clubhouse,
Next to St Killians School, School Rd,
Off the Boghall Road, Bray
Thursdays at 9:30am, 5:30 and 7:30pm
Fridays at 7:30 and 9:30am
Call Lesley on 087 1489110

GREYSTONES

All 3 groups meet here:
Greystones, Eire Og GAA Club, Mill Road,
Greystones
Tuesdays at 5:30 and 7:30pm
Wednesdays at 9:30 and 11:30am
Call Penny on 087 7093841
Wednesdays at 7:30pm
Call Patricia on 083 4434288

KILCOOLE

Byrne's Pub, Main Street, Kilcoole
Thursdays at 5:30 and 7:30pm
Call Patricia on 083 4434288
Saturdays at 9:30am
Call Gloria on 083 3922395

NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY

Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy
Mondays at 5:30 and 7:30pm
Call Jackie on 083 0353633

RATHDRUM

RAD Hall / Annexe
Fair Green, Rathdrum
Thursday at 5:30pm and 7:30pm
Call Caroline on 087 7853600

TINAHELY

Parochial hall, Hacketstown Rd, Tinahely
Monday's at 5:30 and 7:30
Call Tony on 087 1785384

WICKLOW TOWN

All 3 groups meet here:
Upstairs in Ernie's Bar
Market Square, Wicklow
Tuesdays at 5:30 and 7:30pm
Wednesdays at 5:30 and 7:30
Thursdays at 8 and 10am
Call Grainne Reynolds on 087 1470704

slimmingworld.ie

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Yvonne, Matthew, Daniel and Ken Tancred at the Release Wellness Fun Day in Arklow

Pubs on the decline but Wicklow holding its own

Pub closures continue as revenue figures show 71 rural pubs closed in 2018 - there are 1,535 less pubs in rural Ireland than in 2005. 71 rural pubs closed in 2018, according to industry analysis by the Drinks Industry Group of Ireland (DIGI). Revenue figures show the rural pub population declined by almost a quarter in Tipperary (-22.5%), Mayo (-21%) and Cork (-25.6%) in the same period

DIGI calls on Government to ease burden on rural drinks businesses by reducing Ireland's high alcohol excise tax over the next two years

Ireland has the second-highest overall alcohol excise tax in the EU, the highest excise tax on wine, the second highest on beer, and the third highest on spirits

Among the lowest decline in pub numbers reported were in Wicklow (-1.9%) or 3 less pubs since 2005, Meath (-2.4%) and Kildare (-9.9%).

The majority of these low-earning businesses are located in rural Ireland and are particularly vulnerable to taxation policy, any sudden tax increases,

or any decline in inward tourism and economic uncertainty.

The high cost of alcohol excise tax remains a source of significant concern for rural publicans and, indeed, hoteliers, restaurateurs, off-licence owners, and other drinks and hospitality business proprietors. Ireland has the second-highest overall alcohol excise tax in the EU, the highest excise tax on wine, the second highest on beer, and the third highest on spirits.

Ireland's rate of excise on wine is 25% higher than any other country in the EU, while our excise rate on spirits is 26% higher than the UK. For example, €11.92 of a 70cl bottle of Irish produced

whiskey, bought in an Irish off-licence, goes to the Government on excise tax; that is before we consider the VAT that is applied. That figure is 75% less if you buy the same bottle of whiskey in Italy, at €2.90.

Pubs are a significant part of regional Ireland and play a crucial role as community meeting points in rural and isolated parts of the country. According to recent research conducted among 400 publicans by DIGI, more than three-quarters (77%) say their business plays an important part in providing a place for local people to come together for family occasions, like birthdays, christenings and funerals. 68% of publicans say

that their business sponsors a local team, charity or community group, while 63% say that their pub provides a space for elderly people living in isolation to socialise with others.

Research conducted among 1,000 consumers by Amárach Research in May found that when international relatives visit Ireland, pubs and restaurants prove more popular than tourist attractions, as more than half (51%) of Irish people bring international visitors to their local pub, 64% bring their guests to their local restaurant, compared to just 1% who bring their guests to their local tourist attraction.

Greystones has lowest commercial vacancy rate

Wicklow's commercial vacancy rate remained at 12.0% in the second quarter of 2019 according to the latest GeoView Commercial Vacancy Rates Report published last week.

Arklow was the town with the highest commercial vacancy rate in County Wicklow at 19.0%, while Greystones had the lowest vacancy rate in the entire country at 5.8%. Bray's Commercial Vacancy Rate is 12.6%, and Wicklow Town's is

11%. Through the analysis of NACE codes, the report finds that 12.4% of commercial properties in Wicklow are involved in the accommodation and food services sector. Nationally, Edenderry, Co. Offaly is the town with the highest commercial vacan-

cy rate in the country at 28.8%, an increase of 3.1pp on the same time last year. Ballybofey, Co. Donegal (28%) and Kilrush, Co. Clare (26.5%) also posted high vacancy rates. Commenting on the report, Dara Keogh, CEO, GeoDirectory, said, "The

latest GeoView Commercial Vacancy Rates Report shows that the east-west divide in commercial activity is widening and not closing. The five Connacht counties recorded vacancy rates considerably higher than the national average, with increases in every county except Galway. 18 counties in Ireland recorded an increase in commercial vacancy rates, as economic activity is increasingly centred around the Greater Dublin Area."

Annette Hughes, Director, EY-DKM Economic Advisory said, "Our analysis shows that almost 50% of all commercial units in the country are located in Leinster, with just over 20% located in the provinces of Connacht and Ulster combined.

"This is worrying, considering that most of these counties have also recorded higher than average commercial vacancy rates. With a high proportion of counties on the west coast relying on the accommodation and food services sector, commercial activity in these counties could be vulnerable to the impact of Brexit, particularly as a result of currency volatility and reduced tourism."

Minister directs Regional Authority to change Transport Plan

The Minister for Planning & Local Government has instructed the Eastern & Midland Regional Authority to amend its recently adopted Regional Plan to 2031 on transport matters.

Responding to the news, Cllr Derek Mitchell said "I welcome this direction as the changes to the Plan make it more likely that the DART as far South as Greystones will be improved and that the LUAS to Bray, Finglas, Lucan and Poolbeg will be properly planned & designed. I wrote to the Minister some months ago seeking this change.

"I voted against the changes which were proposed to the Transport Strategy but was outvoted by a Green party proposal to reroute the METRO & LUAS to lots of other places. To implement the original strategy, including the DART to Drogheda, Maynooth and Cellbridge, and the Metro to Sandyford (required for LUAS to Bray) will be a major engineering and financial challenge. Every representative would like the LUAS in their area but it must be feasible and have a dense population.

Cllr Mitchell said that the Minister's wording 'continuing to improve DART services on the South-Eastern line as far South as Greystones' is better than the wording 'continuing to provide DART...as far South as Greystones'.

"In 2018 I wrote a paper on providing a better rail service to East Wicklow. Although ignored by Irish Rail, the NTA got Jacobs to check the proposal of providing a 20 minute DART to Greystones, without tunneling. This was reported to be feasible which is why the word 'improve' is important. Submissions can be made to EMRA until 2nd September."

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*In contentious business, a solicitor may not calculate fees or other charges as a percentage or proportion of any award or settlement



The Bridge community in County Wicklow had a weekend promotion last week to encourage more people to join clubs and learn how to play bridge. Pictured at the promotion in Greystones were - Emer Roberts, Margaret Hawes, Mary Bannon and Catherine McCann.



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Food Waste Recycling

European Union (household Food Waste and Biowaste) Regulations 2015 require proper recycling of food waste



Frequently asked questions

I already compost food waste at home, can I still do this?

Yes you can. Your home composting bin can still be used for uncooked vegetables and fruit peelings. However you cannot place raw meat/cooked meats into your home composter.

You can use your brown bin for all types of food waste, **INCLUDING RAW/COOKED FOODS OR MEATS.**

But remember, you cannot place food waste into your general waste bin.

Why should you use the brown bin?

- It saves money because you become more aware of the food you waste and is cheaper to use than your waste bin.
- Recycling food waste is the law.
- It's better for the environment because you are avoiding sending food waste to a landfill where it produces harmful greenhouse gases.
- It produces a high quality compost.

Can I use plastic bin bags in my brown bin?

No. Plastic bags are made from petrochemical plastics that do not break down during composting and contaminate the process. Please remember that if plastic is found in your brown bin, your bin will not be emptied and a contamination tag will be placed on your bin to inform you of this. You may also be liable to an on the spot fine from your local authority.

Will the brown bin cost me more money?

The new brown bin system should not cost more money providing correct segregation of waste is taking place. Under By-laws and National Waste Policy, your waste collector must encourage recycling by offering a lesser charge for collecting your brown bin than your general waste bin.

The most expensive waste stream of all is general waste (landfill waste). There is a Government levy on waste going to landfill, therefore by putting food waste instead into your brown bin, you are avoiding this levy and saving money.

Can I put my food waste into my general waste bin?

You are no longer allowed by Irish law to put food waste into your general waste bin.

If you have any queries contact your waste collector or visit the national information website for more details:

mywaste.ie



mywaste

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Ann-Marie and Mary Doyle at the SUAS Pilot Project's open day event in Hollywood as part of National Heritage Week.

Greystones school found to have structural defects

Gaelscoil na gCloth Liath in Greystones is among the 17 school buildings that were identified last week as having structural flaws requiring them to undertake temporary works to ensure the safety of staff and pupils.

The school was cleared for use last year but in recent weeks engineers carried out more detailed investigations and found that certain flaws in the building require 'engineering solutions and precautionary measures', according to the Department of Education.

All 17 of the schools were built by Tyrone based company Western Building Systems.

Education Minister Joe McHugh said that good progress was being made on the works and that school principals are being kept informed.

Cllr Jennifer Whitmore told *Wicklow Times* "The recent announcement by the Department of Education, that there remains fire safety work to be conducted at Gaelscoil na gCloth Liath, is very concerning. The first fire safety audit was conducted on this school in 2016, with a number of fire safety breaches being identified in a report by the Department in September 2017. I have repeatedly raised with the Minister the need for urgency in getting these breaches fixed and the Minister committed to having them completed by September 2018. Here we are now in August 2020 and it would appear that there are still fire safety issues. This is completely unacceptable and needs to be resolved immediately."

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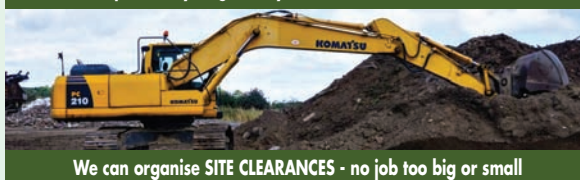
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New Greystones post primary school to open a year early

The new post-primary school to serve the Kilcoole and Greystones will open in 2020 and not 2021 as previously announced, to meet the demand for places in the area.

The patronage process has now been announced for the new school which will cater to 800 pupils in the Greystones and Kilcoole area.

Confirmation came last Monday from Minister Joe McHugh that the school will open one year early due to increased projected enrolments and capacity constraints in the Greystones Municipal District.

Inviting applications under the patronage process, Minister Simon Harris said "Today's invitation follows on from the announcement in April 2018 that the Government was making a major investment in education with the establishment of 42 new schools, including 4 for Wicklow, over the next four years from 2019 to 2022. These six new schools are being set up to meet the demand from growing populations in parts of Greater Dublin, Meath/Kildare and Wicklow. I am pleased to confirm that patrons and prospective patrons have now been asked to apply to become a patron of the new school.

"Patronage for a new school is an important decision for a community. These invitations to patrons are only the first step. Once this process is complete, the Department of Education will open an online patronage survey where

parents and guardians of eligible children living in the areas will be asked to express their preferences on patronage of these new schools. These patronage preferences, together with the extent of diversity currently in each area, will be key to decisions on successful patrons.

"This is really positive as this process will inform the next steps in establishing this school. Parents are of course eager to be sure that there will be enough school places in the area and I am pleased to now confirm these important actions are being taken.

"Most significantly, while the new school was initially announced to be established in 2021, due to increased projected enrolments and capacity constraints in the area, the school will now be established in September 2020. I raised this with Minister McHugh at a meeting with Cllr Derek Mitchell and Alice O'Donnell in Leinster House in May and emphasised the need to reconsider the projected dates. I am really pleased the Department of Education has now acted on this and moved the establishment forward a year."

Social Democrats Cllr Jennifer Whitmore said "This is very welcome news for all the worried parents and students in the Greystones area that

had not yet secured a secondary school place for their child for September 2020. There were quite a number of families whose children were still far down the waiting lists for Templecarrig and St. David's Schools and this news will be a great relief for them.

"I have been working with many of these parents over the past year, and in particular over the last month, to raise awareness of this issue with the Minister and the Department of Education. Concerned parents and myself began an email campaign, outlining the specifics of each student's situation and asking for the Minister to intervene so that students were assured of a place. I am delighted to see that this email campaign has worked and the Minister has finally realised that this issue is one that needed addressing quickly."

Cllr Derek Mitchell said he is "Delighted the Minister for Education has brought forward the new Charlesland Secondary school opening to 2020. I have been lobbying on behalf of the many worried parents who were told they were 80th on the waiting lists for the two Greystones Schools. I zoned a 5ha site for this 15 years ago next to the sports facilities and I have been urg-

ing the Department to buy this for years. "Currently it has temporary planning permission for use as a builders' yard. I expect it will open in temporary facilities. This will be the fifth big school to open in the town in 12 years, a big Government Investment in our area."

Minister Andrew Doyle said "Many parents have contacted my office over the past number of years highlighting the lack of spaces in schools in the area. I have been making representations on behalf of families in Wicklow and I am delighted that this announcement is as a result of the department reviewing projected enrolment figures."

The parental preference survey in relation to the new schools will be held as part of the Online Patronage Process System (OPPS). Parents whose children will be commencing first year in secondary school from 2020-2024 and who are living in the relevant school planning areas will be eligible to make their preferences known in the online survey.

Prospective patrons should complete an application form, which is available on the Department's website. The deadline for the form to be submitted to the Department is 5pm on the 28th August 2019.



Minister Andrew Doyle at the site of the new post-primary school in Charlesland

BREACHES OF HUMAN RIGHTS AT MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY

The Mental Health Commission (MHC) last week published an inspection report from Newcastle Hospital which identified breaches of human rights.

The report, for the Avonmore & Glenree Units at the centre, found that compliance with regulations had decreased from last year, with seven non-compliances rated as 'high risk'. Ten individual areas of compliance with regulations were rated excellent. The inspection was carried out in early February.

In the case of one patient who had been detained in hospital for more than three months there was no evidence that the patient had provided consent for the continuing administration of medication or if there had been a capacity assessment done to show that he/she had capacity or not to consent to treatment. This is in contravention of Section 60 of the Mental Health Act 2001, and Article 3 of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

There was no documented evidence to indicate that mechanical restraint was only practiced when the residents posed an enduring risk of harm to themselves or to others or to address a

clinical need and no evidence to indicate that mechanical restraint was only used when less restrictive alternatives were not suitable.

There was no occupational therapy input into therapeutic programmes. Social workers and psychologists did not deliver any group work but attended Multi-Disciplinary Team meetings and met with residents as required on a one to one basis. Not all residents could attend the Kilmullen Enterprise Centre and so had no access to therapeutic programmes. The individual care plans of residents were of very poor quality and showed a lack of training.

Accommodation was mainly dormitory style with only one single room available. The approved centre did not provide suitable furnishings to support resident independence, dignity and comfort. In the Avonmore unit, four armchairs in the resident's sitting room were in a poor state of repair. None of the bedrooms in either unit had bedside lockers for residents to store personal items, or

for their own comfort.

The seclusion room had been used as a bedroom regularly since the last inspection. It had been used for seven consecutive days as a bedroom and frequently as an alternative to a low stimulus room. Seclusion rooms are not suitable for use as bedrooms. Such use is in contravention of the rules governing the use of seclusion and mechanical restraint. Following the inspection, the centre confirmed this practice has ceased.

The number and skill mix of staffing was insufficient to meet resident needs. At the time of the inspection, there was no designated occupational therapist working in the approved centre, regularly visiting the approved centre to meet with residents or attending multi-disciplinary team meetings.

Commenting on the report, Dr Susan Finnerty, Inspector of Mental Health Services, said: "The Commission strives to uphold and protect the human rights of persons receiving inpatient mental health

services and the inspection team plays a key role in ensuring high standards of care and treatment are met."

Avonmore invited two representatives from the Wicklow mental health forum to join the centre's operational forum.

Mr. John Farrelly, Chief Executive Mental Health Commission, said: "There is no excuse for not having good governance in place. There were failures in, and an absence of, strong governance and management structures in two of the approved centres. Poor governance leads to an increase in non-compliance and breaches in human rights as evidenced in these reports. The Commission will continue to highlight these issues and work closely with the approved centres to rectify this immediately."

Regarding the use of restraints, the Action Plan states that the clinical file has been reviewed and "at present documentation includes residents clinical need for the use of mechanical means of bodily restraint".



Pictured: Keelan Riley and Rebecca Holmes at the Release Wellness Fun Day in Arklow

Avondale Redevelopment continues through planning stages

Minister for Forestry Andrew Doyle TD has welcomed the progress that is being made on the redevelopment plans for Avondale House and Forest Park and is confident that the attraction will become a major visitor destination on the Ancient East Trail once completed.

"The project now in procurement stage, to be followed by design stages, should commence construction phase mid-2020. I am in regular contact with Coillte about this re-development project which is a collaboration between Coillte and Failte Ireland. The nature of very complex tourism developments is such that it does take a long time from approval to commencement of construction on site.

"The planning stages are crucially important for such a development. Avondale, with its rich history, presents a unique proposition, in terms of providing -through this project-a vastly improved visitor experience.

"New plans include an enhanced customer experience of Avondale House and its forest history and a vision for the future of Irish forestry with a new visitor centre as well as a café/restaurant.

"I am looking forward to the start of the design stages which should be in September/October and I welcome that the public is being kept updated on plans through social media platforms and through signage and notifications on site.

"With the existing walks in the area including the Famine Graveyards, a mass path, the Millennium Forest, the Old Mill and Railway viaduct and the banks of the Avonmore river on its doorstep, the re-development of Avondale will hugely complement the tourist offering in the Rathdrum area."

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New Park & Ride now operating from the Beehive



Enda Luddy, Wicklow Town Team; Lorene Crowley, Commercial Director, Wexford Bus and Brendan Crowley Managing Director, Wexford Bus.

Rents now 35% above previous 2008 high

In County Wicklow, rents have increased by 5.8% on this time last year. Average rents in the County now stand at €1,412, according to the latest quarterly Rental Report by Daft.ie.

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has said that further rent increases is further evidence that Government policy is failing renters. Speaking on the daft.ie rent report published last week, Deputy Brady said "The Daft.ie Q2 2019 rent report shows that rents are continuing to rise to increasingly unaffordable levels for most people. The average rent for new tenancies across the State now stands at an all-time high of €1,391. The number of available rental properties is the lowest since Daft.ie reports started in 2006 with just 2,700 homes available.

"The government's strategy for the rental sector is clearly not working and Rent Pressure Zones offer no protections for new renters. We need to see a rent freeze for existing and new tenancies introduced, alongside a renters tax credit worth a month's rent.

"The government must also demonstrate its commitment to affordable cost rental accommodation by local authorities and Approved Housing Bodies. While the Daft.ie report today references the build-to-rent developments in the pipeline, it won't make any difference to most people's lives unless homes are affordable, which they won't be if rents continue to rise."

The Daft Rental Report shows that rental inflation has fallen to a six-year low. The report deals with properties being offered for rent on the market but does not reflect existing tenancies. It also highlights that the amount of available rental accommodation is low at 2,700 units available for rent on 1st May, the lowest ever recorded.

The RTB Annual Report for 2018 issued recently shows a loss of 12,474 private rental tenancies between 2016 and 2018. In 2012, there were 212,000 landlords in the sector compared to 173,197 in 2018.

Stephen Faughnan IPOA Chairman stated "The private rental market is shrinking rather than expanding, Rent Pressure Zones are a blunt instrument and

do not take into account the level of rent being charged or the indebtedness of a landlord, making it uneconomical for some landlords to continue renting property. The State needs to protect the existing supply of accommodation as well as incentivize further investment in the sector."

Rents in Dublin's commuter counties rose by an average of 5.4% in the year to June 2019 and are now 35% above their previous high in early 2008. Rents rose by an average of 6.7% nationwide, in the year to June 2019.

Commenting on the report, Ronan Lyons, economist at Trinity College Dublin and author of the Daft Report, said: "The slowdown in rental inflation will be welcome news to tenants and policymakers, among others. It is more likely driven by limits to affordability than improved supply, however. Availability on the rental market remains at levels that were unprecedented prior to 2015. For example, in the Dublin market, there were just 1,541 properties available to rent on August 1st. While that's up from 1,121 two years ago, it's well below the average of 4,700 for the preceding decade.

"Building new rental supply remains critical to fixing the rental market," Lyons continued. "New figures in this report suggest that up to 25,000 new rental homes will be built over the coming few years. These will certainly help address the supply-demand imbalance. Stopping further inflation should be just the first target for policymakers, however. Bringing rents down to affordable levels must remain the ultimate goal."

Commenting on the report, Raychel O'Connell, Communications Manager of Daft.ie, said: "Students, young professionals and families continue to have great difficulty in securing rental accommodation. With rents at a record high and availability at a record low it is clear that supply is needed more than ever in the Irish property market."

A new Park & Ride service is operating from the Beehive, Wexford Bus has announced. Passengers travelling on the 740A Wexford Bus service that operates between Arklow, Wicklow and Dublin City & Airport up to nine times daily can now avail of free parking at the Beehive.

Wexford Bus worked with the Wicklow Town Team on how to improve the daily commuting options for residents of the Wicklow area who travel to work or study in Dublin, the Park & Ride came from this collaboration. Mr O'Reilly Hyland of The Beehive has agreed to facilitate the programme by opening up the carpark of the Beehive Pub at Junction 18 on the M11. Motorists will be able to park at The Beehive and then avail of coach services provided by Wexford Bus.

Commenting on the announcement, Brendan Crowley Managing Director of Wexford Bus said "We are always looking at ways to enhance

the service that we offer and are delighted that The Beehive are so generously facilitating the people of Wicklow by offering this park and ride. With journey times from The Beehive to UCD of less than one hour the 740A is an ideal way for students and commuters to travel and we are confident that this will be well received by our passengers."

Enda Luddy, Wicklow Town Team, commented "We are delighted that this project has come to fruition. Wexford Bus has been operating the 740A service for over a year now and with the start of another academic year upon us we feel the timing of this new Park & Ride facility at The

Beehive is ideal for Wicklow Town."

Those living around Arklow Town, The Beehive, Wicklow Town & Rathnew are already availing of the great service provided by Wexford Bus on the 740A route, so this new addition will be welcomed. What's more, third level students attending UCD, Trinity, DCU and the city centre based IT's all have a frequent bus timetable which will make commuting even easier.

The 740A Route operates up to nine daily services in each direction. Services start in Gorey and then serve Arklow Town, Jack Whites Cross, Ballincor, The Beehive, Wicklow Town and

Rathnew bringing passengers from South Wicklow to UCD, Dublin City and Dublin Airport. Adult Day Return from The Beehive or Wicklow to Dublin City is 15.50 or 65 for a 10 journey weekly ticket. A Student Monthly Return from The Beehive or Wicklow to Dublin City is €13 or €42 for a 10 journey Leap student weekly ticket. Tax Saver Tickets are also available. All Wexford Bus coaches are Wi-Fi enabled and accept Leap Cards and Department of Social Protection Travel Passes. For full details of the timetables and fares go online to www.wexfordbus.com.

Council to take action on Murrough illegal dumping

Wicklow Sinn Féin TD John Brady has welcomed confirmation from Wicklow County Council that they are to finally take action and clean up the illegal dumping that has been ongoing at The Murrough in Wicklow Town. The council are to obtain quotations for the cleanup of the area and it is to be prioritised.

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. I welcome confirmation from the council to me that they are now going to give priority to having the dumped waste at the Murrough cleaned up and that they are getting quotations to do so.

"Due to the non action in addressing the serious illegal dumping at the environmentally protected area, I've had to report it to the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Parks and Wildlife Service. That pressure now seems to have been critical in getting the council to finally act and have the site 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 "Whilst I welcome the moves by the council to have the illegal dumping at the Murrough cleaned up, measures must be put in place to stop it happening again. Vehicular access to the area must be restricted and CCTV must also be installed to ensure we don't have this problem reoccurring. The perpetrators of this environmental vandalism must also be held to account and they must face the full riggers of the law."



John Brady TD at the Murrough

Call for more bus shelters

Fianna Fáil Spokesperson on Health, Stephen Donnelly TD, has called on the National Transport Authority to install several new covered bus shelters in the Wicklow area.

Deputy Donnelly wrote to Anne Graham, the CEO of the NTA, to highlight the tough reality for the residents of Kilpedder and Newtownmountkennedy/Garden Village when attempting to avail of public transport.

Deputy Donnelly commented, "Many residents have expressed serious concern over the lack of bus shelters in these areas. There are a number of bus stops that are very open to the elements which are now causing a considerable hazard due to the absence of any covered shelters, especially during the winter months.

"I am especially concerned that this is causing major difficulties for elderly residents, who are often particularly dependent on public transport. It is often their only method of transport and when access is restricted it can gradually lead to isolation.

"Also, as Ireland becomes increasingly conscious about the effects of climate change, and the government seeks to encourage citizens to choose public transport over cars where possible, it is crucial that we provide the infrastructure necessary for people to avail of it. It is simply not reasonable to expect people to bear the brunt of the Irish winter on their way to work," he concluded.

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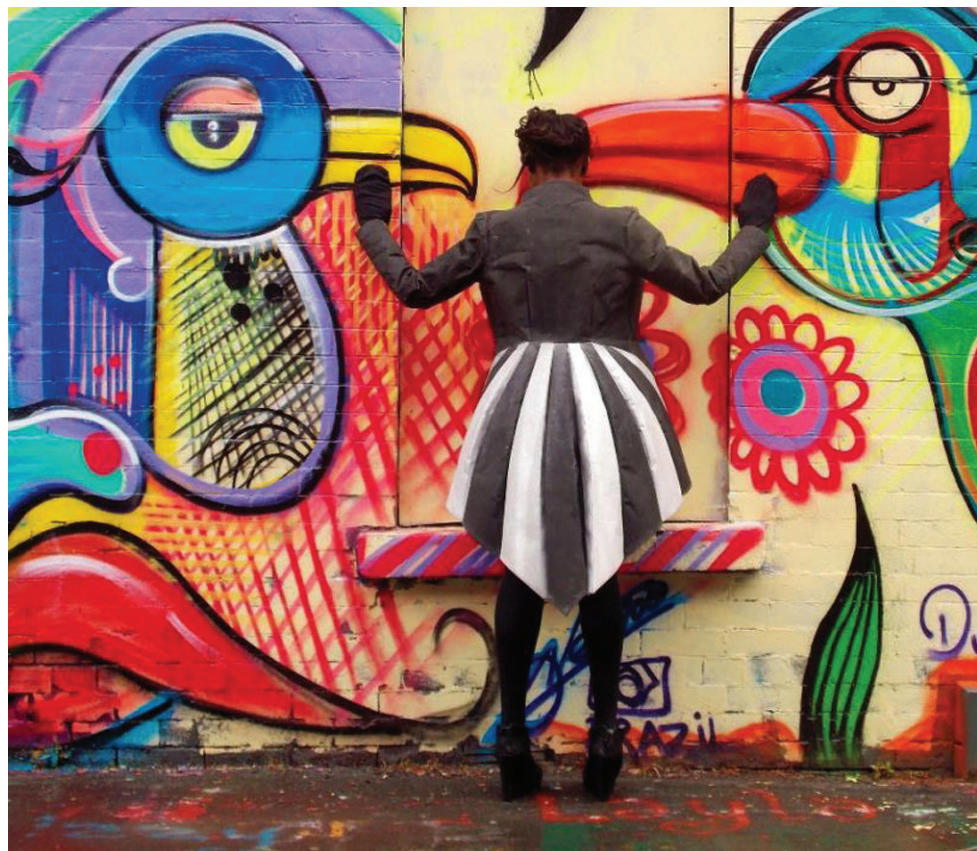
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CLASSES & COURSES

Exciting new courses at BIFE



A new CAO points scale was launched for 2017 learners to be used for entry into higher education. Unfortunately, it doesn't necessarily make it any easier to get your first-choice course. Over recent years many new avenues have opened up to students in pursuit of their dream career.

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

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

Science Pre-University

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

Would you like to work in a Pharmacy?

Working in a busy atmosphere like the pharmacy retail sector is a rewarding and important job. There is a big demand from Pharmacies for the skilled counter staff. If you've been considering pharmacy retail as a career option, Bray Institute have just the course to help you achieve your goals. Furthermore, these courses at BIFE are certified by the Irish Pharmaceutical Union (IPU), City & Guilds and supported by Pharmacies. You'll learn information technology skills, customer service, stock control, team-working and many more skills associated with the pharmacy retail sector, including health and beauty.

Dietetics, Nutrition & Food Science

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

Professional Cookery

With levels of qualified chefs at an all-time low in the industry, Bray Institute of Further Education has answered

the call with its 2-year Professional Cookery programme. In just three short years, BIFE has developed its cookery curriculum into one of the busiest in the country with 50+ chefs in training in its 2-year Advanced Diploma programme. The colleges have a memorandum of understanding that allows successful candidates to progress directly to the third year of the Bachelor of Science programme in IT Tallaght.

Working as a Healthcare Assistant

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

Fancy yourself as an Artist?

The new BTEC Art Practice course at BIFE offers an exciting and challenging programme of study providing students with both essential subject knowledge and skills. The course consists of a broad range of subjects from drawing techniques to 3D studies in ceramics and mixed media, printmaking, photography and art history.

Return to Work & IT Skills

If you are thinking of returning to work, this course offers the ideal opportunity to up-skilling and developing excellent practical skills and competencies for

returning to the workplace. One of the features of this course is that classes are mainly in the morning so that Learners will have the afternoons free. You will be offered the opportunity to be proficient in Word, Excel, Access and Outlook. BIFE has designed this course to suit those who have a busy life.

Barbering

Our popular course in Barbering is aimed at learners that are looking to start a career in the barbering industry. The course covers topics from cutting mens hair & facial hair using basic techniques to creating outlines and detailing in hair

Furniture Design Level 6

If you have completed a level 5 course in furniture design or have skills in this area, why not try this level 6 course and develop advanced skills of cabinet making using woodworking machinery to manufacture doors, drawers and carcasses, the application of various wood finishes and techniques. An emphasis will be placed on the key link between the design process, 2D/3D Computer Aided Design and the workshop.

Mature Students

"There are also many opportunities for mature students who want to break into the world of paid employment. All courses have valuable accreditation and offer progression routes to higher education, yet you don't need CAO points to study at Bray Institute," said Allen. Places are still available on these courses but do hurry as they are filling fast. You can call the Institute during office hours on 01-2829668 or log on to www.bife.ie and apply on-line.



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Pauline Moran, occupational therapist

Pauline Moran is a Registered Private Paediatric Occupational Therapist. She has run a very successful private practice based in Stepside, Dublin.

She has recently opened a state-of-the-art Sensory Integration Clinic at A11 Network Enterprise Park in Kilcoole. Pauline qualified in 1994 from the London School of Occupational Therapy, Brunel University.

She began working in Paediatrics in 1996 and has 23 years' experience working with children with a variety of different conditions. Pauline has specific expertise in the area of sensory integration (SI). She is SIPT certified and is an advanced practitioner in sensory integration through the SI Network UK & Ireland with the University of Ulster. She is also an advanced Practitioner in Therapeutic Listening.

Pauline has always been proactive in her continual professional development. She has a depth of training and certification reflective of her commitment to course attendance each year. In addition to this impressive resume, nothing gives Pauline more joy than seeing her clients' progress to reaching their potential.

She educates, liaises and works closely with parents, teachers, schools and other professionals. She works holistically with the children, referring the children to other professionals when required. She can be contacted at pbmoran@me.com or 087 1344126.



CLASSES & COURSES

Advice to students looking for accommodation

Every year around this time thousands of students will be offered places in third level educational institutions.

This always commences a frantic scramble for rental accommodation. Unfortunately, the Irish State has not made the provision of private rental accommodation an attractive proposition for investors and there is less rental accommodation available than is required.

Students need to be vigilant when renting accommodation. The IPOA suggest that prospective tenants ask their prospective landlords for confirmation of ownership for the property being rented, e.g. sight of insurance documentation or LPT receipt. By doing this there will be a transparent identification processes in place, which will help protect them and eliminate fraud. According to Stephen Faughnan IPOA Chairman "It is sad that such precautions need to be taken, but as with all sectors criminals are prepared to take advantage at any given chance and we must endeavour to protect our members and their tenants".

Students new to the market should familiarise

themselves with the law around the sector and a good place to start is on the Residential Tenancies Board website www.rtb.ie. Students and Renters need to be cautious when paying money. Before you pay any money make sure to have inspected the property and satisfy yourself that the property is suitable for your requirements. When satisfied make payment and get a receipt from the person whom you have identified as the Owner/Agent. Don't be afraid to ask any question as the legitimate person will not mind you being careful, remember it's your money and protect your interest.

Most landlord and tenant relationships work well, research carried out in 2009, commissioned by the Residential Tenancies Board, outlined that 90% of students were satisfied or very satisfied with their accommodation and only 5% showing some form of dissatisfaction with their landlord. This confirms very favourably with the Irish Property

Owners Association survey carried out by Millward Brown IMS in 2002, Private Rental Sector Tenant Research which outlined a similar satisfaction rate.

Other items that were highlighted in the Students Private Rented Sector Report are: 48.1 per cent live in house share or 38.7% in apartment blocks; Cost

was considered the most important factor influencing choice of accommodation; 2/3rds of parents helped to pay for their accommodation.



WHAT DO YOU CALL A **bife** GRADUATE ?



Young people urged to enter tourism & hospitality industry

With hospitality and tourism businesses around the country including in Wicklow looking to recruit over 6,000 entry-level employees each year across all areas of their operation, the Irish Hotels Federation (IHF) is encouraging them to consider a career in the industry.

Mr Brian McNamara, Chair of the Wicklow branch of the Irish Hotels Federation says: "School leavers can choose from a wide selection of specialist courses on offer in colleges throughout the country, as well as 'earn and learn' chef programmes for those who may not want to commit to a full time college course. There are plenty of opportunities too for graduates as well as school leavers who wish to start working straight away, offering a variety of options for career paths that support professional development with skills that are transferrable internationally."

Tourism and hospitality supports 13,900 jobs in Wicklow and some 266,000 jobs nationally, equivalent to 11% of total employment, with more than 60,000 of these jobs in the hotels sector alone. Over 94,000 new jobs have been created since 2011.

Opportunities are available in areas such as food and beverage; catering; accommodation services; reception; leisure centre and spa facility management; sales and marketing; human resources; IT; management and finance. The IHF has a dedicated website, Get a Life in Tourism, supported by Fáilte Ireland, which offers comprehensive information on the many careers available in the industry and how to get started.

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Acting Advanced for Film, TV and Theatre - HND
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Dance Technique, Performance & Choreography - HND

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Beauty & Body Therapy Diploma
Fashion, Theatre & Media Make-Up - Diploma
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Barbering
Nursing / Midwifery Studies
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Social Studies & Community Care
Supervision in Early Childhood Care - Level 6
Health Care Assistant
Applied Psychology
Applied Health & Social Care - HND

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Animal Care
Animal Care & Management
Animal Science Industry - Level 6
Science - Pre University
Forensics Applied Science
Dietetics, Nutrition and Food Science
Engineering Pre University
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Professional Cookery - Advanced - Level 6
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Computer Software Development
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Return to Work & IT Skills

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EARLY EDUCATION

As every parent knows finding the right pre-school facility for their child is vital. Early education is very important for a child. Childcare is significant to their development, both socially and intellectually, equipping them with skills that will help them cope with their often daunting first years at school. With pre-schools places across the county filling up, the time is now for parents in Co. Wicklow to consider the best pre-school for their little ones.

Another factor for parents to consider is the free year of early childhood care and education for children of pre-school age provided by the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme.

In general, children are eligible for the ECCE scheme if they are aged over 3 years 2 months and less than 4 years 7 months on 1 September of the year that they will be starting. The upper age limit can be extended in some cases. The State pays a capitation fee to participating playschools and daycare services. In return, they provide a pre-school service free of charge to all children within the qualifying age range for a set number of hours over a set period of weeks (see 'How the ECCE scheme is provided' below). In

general, children only qualify for ECCE in one school year. However, a child who has been assessed as having a disability may be able to spread their free pre-school year over two years.

Things to consider when looking for childcare:

Research has shown that children benefit from high quality child care. But what makes a program good? Is it the feeling of trust you get when you meet the provider? How about the education and training of the provider?

Is your child happy?

Your child's environment may be safe and offer all sorts of early education activities, but a primary question that every parent should ask

is "Is my child truly HAPPY at child care?" While all kids must have bouts of separation anxiety or days where they simply don't want to go to daycare, parents should assess whether their tot is truly happy at child care (at least most of the time). Does your youngster have friends, look forward to special events or days, and seem to have a bond with the care provider? Does she engage socially and seem to thrive in her care setting? If not, it might be time to re-evaluate.

Is your childcare provider passionate about children?

Your child's teacher/provider may have an impressive pedigree, but most parents really want a caregiver who is wild and

crazy with passion and genuine love for kids...especially their own! Deciding whether your child's caregiver possesses the right amount of "passion for kids" is subjective, of course, but parents want to feel like their child's caregiver views his/her job as a blessing and that kids are a joy to be around.

Is your childcare environment safe?

Anyone with kids knows that tots seem to be drawn to dangerous objects and potentially hazardous playthings. Turn your head, and small kids are checking out outlet plugs, cabinets with glassware, or even the kitchen knife drawer. Be sure to carefully evaluate whether

your child's in-home provider has all the bases covered in terms of home safety; daycare centers should have a list or at least be able to provide detailed explanations of safety precautions and procedures. While you're at it, be sure to ask about drop-off and departure safety protocols and be sure you're comfortable with the answers given.

Are you pleased with your child's growth and learning?

Experts and parents alike differ on the importance of structured early education to prepare kids for pre-school and kindergarten. Some argue that attending to basic needs, providing lots of safe and fun free play and encouraging social interaction is

sufficient. Others, however, believe that a focus on early reading and math as well as introducing academic concepts and even foreign language is essential for success later. Determine what your goals and expectations are for your child at his current stage; then, be sure they are being met to your satisfaction.



The outdoor safe surface play area at Little Harvard

Little Harvard in Rathnew is Ireland's leading provider of superior quality childcare for Babies, Wobblers, Toddlers, Pre School/Montessori and After School children.

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The team's genuine love, understanding and interest for children, combined with a high standard of qualifications, provides parents with the peace of mind that their children are being looked after with kindness and expertise. From the management to the childcare professionals, all Little Harvard employees work as a team.

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"We provide a Creche and Montessori at Kirvan Hill for children aged 1 to 5 years of age and a dedicated After School facility in our Merrymount Centre for children aged between 5 and 12 years of age.

"This beautiful facility



The creche at Little Harvard

includes a Large Outdoor Play area (safe surface) Children learn under the Aistear method of teaching and socialise with peers of their own age.

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ting and encourage parents to have an active role in their Children's learning.

"We believe in providing highly nutritious, good quality meals, not only for your child's health and physical well-being but also to develop their taste buds and social skills involving food.

"Additionally our Afterschool Facility which is located in the Merrymount Centre provides a Drop off and Pick up service to and from local schools.

"We offer various options from dance, martial arts, drama and just good fun and exercise, additional activities including Professional Martial Arts, Playball, Arts & Crafts, Yoga and Day Trips. Our opening times are from 7am to 7pm Monday to Friday. Currently we have places available in both our Creche and Afterschool services, to inquiry further about a place please contact our manager Kayleigh on 0404 70411."

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RATHNEW ON THE UP & UP

With new housing projects in development, a recently refurbished community hall, and a new post office, Rathnew is a village that's on the up and up.

Far from being just a place to pass through, Rathnew can now compete with the many shops and glamorous retail outlets of larger towns, with The Merrymeeting Centre and Broomhall Business Park which have a range of shops and services to cater for a variety of needs.

At Broomhall you'll find a mixture of accountants, architects, IT services, public relations, office furniture, health services, a curtain and blinds shop, and more. It is ideally situated on the New Town Relief road, just a couple of minutes from the M11 motorway and 35 minutes from South Dublin.

Rathnew, a small village, also comes without all the hustle and bustle and stress of crowds and traffic.

Rathnew is home to the historic Tinakilly House, the former residence of Capt. Robert Halpin and now a hotel. It is situated in the center of the village opposite the local cemetery with narrow entrance to a mile-long avenue.

By shopping local in your community you will be supporting the Rathnew business community which provides jobs in the area. Rathnew might not be that far from Wicklow Town, but it is a gem in its own right and has its own identity.



St. Brigid's Hall in Rathnew

Rathnew through the years

Rathnew is known by several names including 'The Village,' 'The Thatched City,' and the 'Khaki Village. This is an area with a long, rich and varied heritage. Rathnew is royal ground due to the genealogy of it's founder 'Naoi.'



involved himself in the local community organisations and society in general, he also employed locals to work his land. He and his wife, Newfoundlander, Jessie Halpin would put on parties for Royal birthdays and special celebrations and would always invite local children to the festivities.

"Rathnew has a long and varied sporting heritage which included cricket, wrestling, cock fighting, horse and dog racing in the older times to the multi-award and trophy winning teams and individuals in running and track events, boxing, GAA, soccer and equestrian events of modern times.

"Rathnew can lay claim to two All Ireland award winning groups. St. Brigid's Dramatic Society in the late 1950s and 1960s, winning many awards on the All Ireland circuit and in the performance of religious plays. The second All Ireland award winners were the Tug of War team which was at its height in the mid 1970s.

(Source: Our Wicklow Heritage website)

"His father was Sedna Siobhach, King of Leinster, his grandfather was Lugaidh Lorrin, also a Leinster King after whom a Wicklow mountain is named. 'Naoi's' brother Masc founded his settlement or Dun at what is now Dunamase in Portlaoise. (The Dun of masc.) 'Naoi' founded his settlement or Rath at what is now modern day Rathnew. (The Rath of Naoi.) His name can only be found today in the place-name. Anglicised

down to Rathnew.

"The most famous resident in Rathnew had to be Captain Robert Halpin of 'Great Eastern' and underwater telegraphic cable laying fame. Though Rod Stewart was spotted outside the Captain's old home, he could not be considered a resident. Captain Halpin laid 26,000 miles of undersea telegraphic cable which linked four continents. As big a milestone as the internet of today with regard to worldwide communications. The Captain built his retirement home in Rathnew, Tinakilly House. While he



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Calling on people to lend their support to the Jack & Jill Children's Foundation 'Up the Hill for Jack & Jill' fundraising challenge are its Specialist Children's Liaison Nurses Joanne Doyle (Wexford, Carlow, and South Wicklow) and Sheila Hayes (Waterford, Kilkenny, South Tipperary and East Cork) with Carmel Doyle, CEO (right). The fun endeavour sees events big and small taking place across the country from Sunday 22nd September. People are being asked to join in one of the organised hill climbs, or to organise one of their own, or to simply register their support by donating €16 - equivalent to the cost of one hour of home nursing care. To register and receive a fundraising pack, visit www.jackandjill.ie

Only a few days left to enter the 10th edition of Clean Coasts' 'Love Your Coast' photography competition!

There are only a few days are left to enter Clean Coasts' 'Love Your Coast' photography competition - which is celebrating its 10th anniversary - so get your camera out and submit your best shots by Saturday, 31st August, at 5pm.

For the past 10 years, the 'Love Your Coast' competition has been about capturing the essence of the Irish coastline, its beauty and its diverse character. Working with communities on the ground, Clean Coasts mission is also to help foster pride in our coastline and wants to see this reflected in the entries.

With a prize fund of €5,000, it attracts huge interest from Ireland's amateur photographers each year. The five categories in the competition are Coastal Heritage, Coastal Landscape, People & the Coast, Wildlife & the Coast and Underwater.

Last year, Clean Coasts received approximately 1,000 entries and the 50 best shots were shortlisted for the final exhibition that was held on 11th October 2018, in Smock Alley Theatre, in Dublin, including 17 photos taken all across the Leinster coastal area. Photographer Derek Balfe was awarded the 'Photographer of the Year' award, with its 'Drumanagh Under the Stars', taken at Loughshinny, Dublin and was also the overall winner of the 'Coastal Heritage Category'.

To mark its 10th anniversary, the competition was launched in Dublin on Tuesday, 2nd July, with an interesting photography workshop, during which professional photographer Mark Carmody shared his best tricks for outdoors photography. Over the course of the workshop, participants were also reminded that while this competition is an invitation to enjoy our beautiful coastline, we also need to safeguard it, and so Mark Carmody reminded us that a license

is required for photography/ filming of protected wildlife under the Wildlife Acts.

Clean Coasts is a charity programme, run through the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce. Clean Coasts engages communities in the protection of Ireland's beaches, seas and marine life. Clean Coasts has grown over the years and now includes two main national clean-up drives; Coca-Cola Clean Coasts Week and the Big Beach Clean. Volunteering has expanded to include Corporate Volunteering and the Ocean Hero Awards also.

Other aspects include the Green Coast Award, the Love Your Coast Photography competition, the Clean Coasts Roadshow for coastal communities and the Clean Coasts programme with the likes of Ocean Talks. The programme also operates several campaigns in Ireland including 'Think Before You Flush' and international campaigns '#2minute-beachclean' and 'Beat the Microbead'.



'Each animal has as much right to be here as you and me', photo by Chris Howes, taken at Brittas Bay

Local winners at Comhaltas All Ireland Fleadh Cheoil

It was an exciting and successful week of competitions, concerts, céilithe, sessions and more at the 2019 Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in Drogheda.

Over 500,000 people thronged the streets over the past eight days, while tens of thousands of people attended the special opening by President Michael D Higgins. The town pulsed with Irish rhythm and revelry as age-old traditions were celebrated by new generations and the vibrancy of the Fleadh emanated throughout the streets.

The Co. Wicklow winners at the event were; 2A Bosca Ceoil / Button Accordion (Faoi 12) 2nd James Lambert, CCÉ, Wicklow Miners; 4A Feadóg / Whistle (Faoi 12) 1st James Lambert, CCÉ, Wicklow Miners; 16C Bodhrán (15-18) 1st Matthew Hurrell O'Connor, CCÉ, Bray; 21B FoinnMhalla, Feadóg / Whistle Slow Airs (12-15) 2nd Betty Ní Shé, CCÉ, Bray; 49K Comhrá Gaeilge (15-18) 2nd Elena Ó'Céidigh-Hayes, CCÉ, Bray; 51C Scéalaíocht (15-18) 2nd Éabha Ó Céidigh Hayes, CCÉ, Bray.

This is the second year in succession that Drogheda hosted the All-Ireland Fleadh. In 2020 it will be moving to Mullingar. Every year, the Fleadh provides a cultural meeting place for those who carry the great traditions of Irish music, song and dance in their hearts.

Lolo Robinson, Chairperson of the Fleadh Executive Committee said, "What a wonderful week we have had at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann here in Drogheda. It has been such a pleasure to host the Fleadh for the last two years. Memories have been made that will last a lifetime and the legacy of the Fleadh is the increased interest in



1st place winner Matthew Hurrell O'Connor with his Bodhrán at the 2019 Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in Drogheda

traditional Irish music, song and dance that will last for generations to come.

She continued, "We would like to wish the organisers of the 2020 Fleadh in Mullingar every success and look forward to joining them for the 70th Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann"

Dr Labhrás Ó'Murchú, Ardstiúrthóir, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann said, "When Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann commenced in 1951 it was obviously a very small event. In the intervening years the Fleadh has grown to be a Festival of world propor-

tions. It emphasises how our childhood traditions have proposed in the intervening years, and today played a significant role in tourism with over 25% of the 500,000 attending, coming from out of state."

At the core of the Fleadh are the competitions that see traditional musicians, dancers, singers and story tellers of all ages and backgrounds competing at All-Ireland level, following victories at regional competitions.

This year over 7,000 competitors played, sang or danced for All-Ireland titles in 180 competitions.

The standards were high and the music more than lived up to the expectations of judges who had a very difficult job choosing winners for each category and competition.

Scoil Éigse, the official summer school organised by Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, ran throughout the week with almost 900 Irish and international students of all ages taking part in various music, singing, dancing and Irish language classes. Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann will in take place in Mullingar in 2020.

RIP Fr. Joe Murphy

Fr. Joe Murphy, born in Greystones, passed away on Saturday 17th August.

He always wanted to be a priest and entered the Holy Ghost Seminary.

He served in Nigeria for several years, but contracted malaria and had to return to Ireland. He served the people in Africa very well and loved his work there.

Back in Ireland, he worked in Booterstown and Dalkey. He was chaplain at St. David's Secondary School in the 1980s and 1990s.

He was also chaplain at the Carmelite Monastery in Delgany. There are two generations of Greystones people who knew and loved Fr. Joe. Those whom he grew up with and the students that he chaplained and mentored.

Fr. Joe's brother, Dessie, lived in the family home in St. Bridget's Park.

When Dessie passed away, Fr. Joe returned to Greystones to live in the family home.

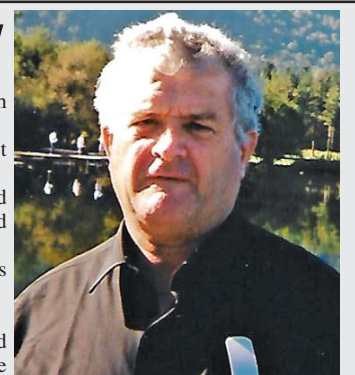
In Holy Rosary Parish, he celebrated the 10.30 am Mass in St. Kilian's Church Blacklion for many years. Fr. Joe also set the scene for Mass, he never just came out on the altar and started the prayers.

He always welcomed the Parishioners to the church, mentioned what the weather was like, thanked them for coming and asked them to prepare for the morning Mass celebrations.

His sermons were legendary, always spoken from the heart, often without notes. He was able to put the religious message to people in a way that they understood, and in a way that they could take home his thoughts and put them into practice.

People in Greystones will remember his Christian charity and his Christian example. He had a very calm and practical manner which he used in his pastoral care.

Fr. Joe was much loved and will always be remembered.



Fr. Joe Murphy in Lourdes



CAR SERVICING & REPAIRS

Car Servicing

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

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

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

A vehicles' service history can not only boost its value but also make it dif-

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

A pre-holiday service is money well spent - especially if any reasonably long journey or overseas trips are in the offing.

Top Ten Tips on Summer Servicing

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

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

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

* Prior to booking your car in, consider how it's been running. Be honest - inform the service staff of any problems and/or any recent work carried out.

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

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

* Insist that there are no additional work is undertaken without your express permission. If recommended, this should be quoted against, not estimated. Ask for any replaced parts to be

retained for your inspection upon collection.

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

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

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

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

With holiday fun planned, car maintenance is probably the furthest thing from your mind, but a mechanical problem can quickly and easily turn an

otherwise fun day into a nightmare, especially if you're far from home.

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

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

replacement. Clean fuel injectors and if necessary, change the fuel filter. Change or adjust the spark plug. Inspect the distribution. Inspect the brakes and exhaust system. Inspect the cooling system and radiator.

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



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car servicing, repairs & NCT preparation



MARTIAL ARTS

Martial arts are combat practices which can be practiced for many different reasons - as self defense, military and law enforcement applications, in competition, for physical fitness, mental and spiritual development as well as for entertainment.

Once the preserve of few, martial arts classes are now available in most areas, with many gyms and fitness centres running specialised classes. Classes are run for children as young as 3, teach-

ing them discipline and skills, as well as keeping them fit. There is no upper age limit to classes either!

Martial arts are an interesting and accessible way to keep fit and learn

new skills. Martial arts are known as codified systems and traditions of combat practices which are practiced for a variety of reasons: self-defense, competition, physical health and fitness, as well

as mental, physical and spiritual development.

There are many different types of martial arts, some of the better known ones include, boxing, capoeira, Taekwondo, karate, judo and wrestling. Martial

arts can be practiced for fun or for competition. There are a number of clubs and organisations around Wicklow that offer classes in martial arts, usually for most grades, from beginner to competitive, and for all ages.



Swift Kick Academy

"At Swift Kick Martial Arts Academy we're always looking for new members. Classes offered from 4 years old and upwards. Our classes include Kickboxing, Jujitsu, Boxing for Fitness, Ladies Fitness, Forms and Weapons. Check out our website for the latest Timetable and Prices at www.skmaa.com

"We would like to congratulate all our members that travelled to the US Open in Florida and came back with a great haul of trophies and medals. Also good luck to our mem-

bers Heidi, Jake, Amy, Leah, Sarah and Max that are currently away in Hungary representing Ireland at the European China Championships."



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SUAS Project host open day in West Wicklow



Minister Andrew Doyle and Ann Marie Doyle at the SUAS Pilot Project's open day event in Hollywood as part of National Heritage Week.

The SUAS Pilot Project which is working with upland farmers in the Wicklow and Dublin uplands, hosted an Open Day and Demonstration Event in West Wicklow last Tuesday.

Attendees travelled by bus from Hollywood Community Centre to the nearby Granamore Commonage, which is one of the locations that was included in the first round of the SUAS Project. The lands which are now within the boundaries of the Wicklow Mountains National Park, were formerly part of Lord Waterford Estate in County Wicklow and contain a number of interesting features such as old turf cutting banks, a small hill of blanket bog, a Mass rock, and the Douglas River and other water systems.

The Wicklow uplands are renowned as an area of outstanding natural beauty and provide an important landscape for a range of recreational activities. The uplands also provide an important natural resource

to produce food and energy as well as providing high quality fresh water supplies to adjacent urban populations. This great natural resource was traditionally managed by upland farmers whose activities kept habitats in good environmental condition. However, over the past two decades changes in legislation and farming activities, have led to a gradual decline in the quality and condition of upland habitats.

For the past number of years Wicklow Uplands Council has researched and highlighted these declining conditions and advocated the need for targeted support for upland farming. In direct response to that body of research, the Uplands Council secured funding for a new pilot project for the Wicklow/Dublin uplands

called a Sustainable Uplands Agri-environment Scheme (SUAS).

The SUAS Pilot Project was developed using a bottom-up approach with the support of local upland farmers and following what was referred to as a highly competitive selection process, the project successfully received funding of €1.95 million from the Department of Agriculture under the new European Innovation Partnership for Agriculture Productivity and Sustainability (EIP AGRI) initiative.

SUAS is a five year pilot project which aims to address the agricultural, environmental and socio-economic issues associated with upland farming in the Wicklow/Dublin uplands. It is an ambitious project and includes a number of key innovations

including: The establishment of commonage groups with their own constitutions; Integrating the environmental (ecological and water) and farm data into a single commonage management plan; Assisting farmers to take responsibility for the development, implementation, and delivery of their own management plan; The use of an auction-based payment system to incentivise participants to develop solutions to specific issues they have identified on their farmed area.

A lot of work has taken place to get the project initiated. Following a call for Expressions of Interest in March 2018, an initial three commonage groups and one non-commonage/individual farmer have been selected to participate in the first

phase of SUAS. These include the Commonage Groups in Glassamullen, Ballybeg and Granamore. A further five sites consisting of three in the Wicklow Uplands and two in the Dublin uplands, were added in the second phase of the project in 2019.

Through a trained facilitator, each of the commonage groups have developed an agreed constitution and have established themselves as a formal structure including the election of a Chairperson. It is the commonage group itself that agrees to a management plan with the SUAS operational group and work will implemented cooperatively.

Declan Byrne, who has been with Teagasc for the last 17 years, was appointed to the role of full time project manager of the SUAS pilot project in early 2018. Declan, who has been an adviser to sheep hill farmers throughout Co. Wicklow, brings a wealth of experience to the role and will guide and support the participating farmers throughout the project's duration.

Well-known ecologist, Faith Wilson has been recruited for the duration of the project to conduct on-site ecological and water quality assessments. The assessments will identify the current status of the site and make recommendations on how to improve its condition. Using that information the farmers will then be assisted in developing their management plan. The plan will also take into account farm data



Hugh McLindon, Anne Fitzpatrick and Finn the dog at the SUAS Pilot Project's open day event in Hollywood.

e.g. flock size, grazing period. Farmers will decide themselves what measures they would like to carry out to improve the habitat condition.

Measures may include but are not limited to; vegetation removal through controlled managed burning or mechanical means, increased shepherding activities, cattle grazing, providing livestock holding infrastructure etc. Payments will be made for time spent carrying out the activities in line with the agreed management plan.

An auction-based measure has also been included in the SUAS pilot which will encourage participants to explore further actions and measures that

address problems they have identified on their farmed area. Participants can make a proposal to the SUAS team who will provide finance to develop the best idea that is brought forward. Measures considered under the auction system will provide added value to the project.

It is envisaged that such measures may include: Provision of signage, both educational and directional to archaeological sites; Heather restoration in Molina dominated areas; Protecting rare and endangered species - e.g. temporary fencing, grazing exclusion zones; Bracken control.

To support SUAS, an

Operational Group comprised of a team of experts has been assembled with a diverse range of skills. The organisations involved include; Wicklow Uplands Council, Teagasc, National Parks & Wildlife Service, UCD, LAWCO and IFAC Accountants.

The vision for SUAS is that it will create a blueprint for future upland agri-environment schemes. There are indications from Europe that the next round of CAP will have a greater focus on bottom-up, locally led schemes and therefore it is crucial that SUAS and the other upland projects work successfully for all involved.

Registration for the 2019-2020 Blue Star Programme is now open

Primary school pupils are being challenged to get creative in how they learn and think about Europe through the Blue Star Programme, coordinated by European Movement Ireland.

The Blue Star Programme teaches primary school children about Europe through creative activities and projects that complement the national primary curriculum. Each participating class carries out projects on history, geography, the Institutions of the EU, culture and creativity with a European twist.

Teachers and their classes have flexibility to be creative and to tailor their projects towards their own individual needs and interests. Classes have written and acted plays; prepared traditional meals from across Europe; and spoken to relatives in other EU countries over Skype, amongst many other creative activities.

One class recreated the painting of the Sistine Chapel by painting their classroom desks, while another sent care packages to refugees across Europe when learning about the migrant crisis. Teachers, parents, carers and the whole school are encouraged to get involved in these projects. In this way, the Blue Star Programme creates awareness of the EU that reaches far beyond the school walls and out into the wider community.

Ryan Levis, manager of the Blue Star Programme, commented on the opening of registration for the Programme for the new term, "Among the many things the Programme helps deliver - including

of course the important general awareness of the EU in our lives as Irish citizens - the appreciation of diversity in the classroom is the element of the Blue Star Programme that I'm most proud of. The cultural dynamic of the Irish classroom today is a lovely and vibrant thing, and I am so grateful to have the opportunity to manage a programme that allows Irish kids to learn about other EU countries' cultures in a decent and caring manner. We're very much looking forward to getting going again for another year!"

Since the first year of the Programme in 2011-2012, Wicklow has had 18 primary schools participate, of the 1,000+

schools that have registered nationwide, with every county represented to date. The Blue Star Programme is eager to see that number continue to grow. The concept of the programme is simple: to foster better understanding and knowledge of Europe and how it affects the lives of Irish citizens among Irish primary pupils in a curriculum-friendly manner.

Primary schools interested in taking part in the Blue Star Programme 2019-2020 can register before Friday 23rd September. At the end of the year, schools are required to submit a Blue Star Programme Report outlining how each of the key elements were

explored.

Schools are also encouraged to host an event for Europe Day on 9th May such as an art exhibition, parade or food fair.

Each school's submission is assessed by the National Coordinator. All schools that successfully complete the Blue Star Programme are awarded Certificates of Achievement signed by the Minister of State for European Affairs and the Executive Director of European Movement Ireland. Further information about the programme can be found at www.bluestarprogramme.ie.



Pupils from Boolavogue National School, Co. Wexford taking part in the Blue Star Programme's 'Handshake for Europe' in Iveagh House, Dublin earlier this summer.

Woodland Walk: an exhibition of wooden sculptures

An exhibition of exquisite wood sculptures by Conleth Gent at Signal Arts Centre, Bray, opens on September 16th and runs until 29th September. Superb and delicate, attractive and strong, these elemental pieces are sure to evoke a deep response from collectors and admirers of Conleth Gent's work who have been eagerly awaiting his return to the Bray venue.

Conleth Gent is an artist working with wood to create unique sculptures that are firmly rooted in his distinctive

understanding of form and harmony. This highly sensitive approach to the chosen material reflects his appreciation of nature

and his desire to engage the viewer with tactile and tangible forms that are visually intriguing.

Concerned mainly with personal expression through the use of figurative elements and with communicating the character of the particular piece of wood, Conleth Gent learned his art abroad, almost 40 years ago. While living in Africa, he was able to explore the tradition of wood carving and he was deeply affected by his experiences with the tradition there.

"An African legend states that spirits of dead beings choose trees as a resting place, between the worlds. A wood carver or sculptor has only to scratch away the surface of the wood to reveal the spirit inhabiting the tree".

Conleth's great understanding of the material and his familiarity with the process which began on a distant continent, has won him many accolades since. These include the 2016 Sculpture in Context, when together

with Paul Flynn, he was the winner of the New Ireland Assurance Award.

Working from his studio near Glencullen, in the Dublin mountains, the work in this current exhibition consists of a number of small to medium size works in a variety of locally sourced hardwoods. Equally comfortable working on very large pieces, this artist is committed to resolving the challenge presented by each piece of timber, as he seeks to reveal the spirit of the tree within.

Conleth has exhibited widely throughout Ireland and is a regular exhibitor at Sculpture in Context in the National Botanic Gardens. He recently completed a piece for the sculpture symposium in Tomnafinnogue Wood in County Wicklow. His work can be found in many public and private collections at home and abroad and in the University College Dublin and University College Cork permanent collections.



'The Art of Us' exhibition

'The Art of Us', a joint exhibition by St John of God Community Services and Sunbeam House Services, will run in the Signal Arts Centre from Monday 2nd September - Sunday 15th September.

All the work is by Artists who are associated with St John of God Community Services Dublin South East, and Sunbeam House Services Bray. These Artists make art purely for the joy of creating. The Artist's subject matter is individual and of a personal interest. This has been the inspiration for this collaborative exhibition.

Most of the artists from the above services had previously been attending The Art and Friendship Club in the Schoolhouse for Art in Enniskerry. This project was initially set up by Artist Fiona O'Farrell of Sunbeam House (who has since retired). Fiona invited Artist Eithne Griffin from Willowvale Day service to join her in this venture, which embodied an ethos of community inclusion. The Art and Friendship Club supported people with an intellectual disability to enjoy a broad range of skill based art

activities. The work exhibited here reflects the goal of that project which was that the participants connect with their community, grow in independence and further develop their

life and social skills.

These Artists are from The Willowvale Active Retirement Day Centre, The Jeda Beading group, The Artisans and Artists from The Student Learning

Centre Sunbeam House.

Both Services strive to have creative programmes in environments where people with different interests and abilities can develop their creativity.



The Beauty of the Violin at The Whale

In her debut solo recital Bray native Emma Byrne will bring the beauty of the violin to Whale Theatre. With a wide variety of music including works by Rachmaninoff, Tchaikovsky and Bach, the young violinist brings forward an exciting programme of music.

Emma began playing the violin at the age of 6 and has spent the last 12 years studying classical music at home and abroad. At 15, she was accepted to a music school in Denmark where she spent a year studying music intensively. Upon returning to Ireland she continued her music studies and aims to pursue a career as a classical violinist.

In this unique concert, Emma will share her passion for classical music in an interactive and accessible way. With or without a love for classical music, this will be an evening to enjoy!

Emma has just completed her leaving cert at Loreto Bray Secondary School.

The show will take place on Sunday 1st September at 4pm (Doors 3.30pm). Tickets are €10.

What I (Don't) Know About Autism

What I (Don't) Know About Autism by Jody O'Neill comes to the Mermaid Arts Centre on Friday 6th September at 8pm.

"I wrote What I (Don't) Know About Autism in response to my experiences as a mother of a young autistic child and my own subsequent diagnosis," says Jody O'Neill.

"It is a part-fictional, part-factual journey into the world of autism, performed by a cast of autistic and neurotypical actors. I hope it will bring a greater understanding about autism to all who see it, and be part of a long-overdue shift towards celebration and acceptance of autistic identity."

"Building on a week-long development at the Abbey Theatre, we will use our time at Mermaid to develop the play further. As part of that process, we would love as many people as possible to join us for a work-in-progress showing."

There will be a Q&A session afterwards that will give you, the audience, an opportunity to feed into the development of this unique piece of theatre."

The play is directed by Donal Gallagher, choreographed by Cindy Cummings and produced by Melissa Nolan. It is funded by the Arts Council, Wicklow County Council, Mermaid Arts Centre, the Abbey Theatre and Everyman Theatre with additional support from Rough Magic, Fishamble New Play Company, KCAT, AsIAM and Triple A Wicklow.

Tickets cost €5 and are available from Box Office on 01-2724030 and online at www.mermaidartscentre.ie



What I (Don't) Know About Autism by Jody O'Neill comes to Mermaid Arts Centre on Friday 6th September. Pictured is The beautiful planet of Castalla, acrylic, pencil and posca pen on canvas, by Brianna Hurley.



Rathnew AFC U13 soccer team had their first outing recently sporting their new kit which has been sponsored by Wicklow and District Lions Club. The luck of the Lions was with them as they came out on top of the league which has been running for the past few months. The young players are coached by Declan Earls and wore their new colourful jerseys with the renowned Lions crest with great pride. The jerseys have introduced the children in the area to the Lions organisation at a very young age and how the members serve everyone in the local community. Rathnew will represent Wicklow Lions in Tullamore in the coming weeks.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

It is estimated that there are over 1,500 people living with dementia in Wicklow, and that number is set to increase as national figures indicate that over 4,000 people will develop the condition across Ireland every year. Dementia is caused by different diseases of the brain. There are over 400 different types of dementia, with Alzheimer's disease the most common. Dementia is most likely to develop in older people but can occur at a younger age too.

September is World Alzheimer Month and the HSE-led Dementia: Understand Together campaign is asking readers of the Wicklow Times to support the campaign by becoming a dementia community champion. Community champions are at the heart of this movement which aims to create an Ireland that embraces and includes people with dementia, and that displays solidarity with them and their families. Champions bring together local people, and can inspire those around them to take action that will support and help people with dementia and their families remain active and connected within their own local community.

Here are the six actions that we can all take this September:

- See the person, not the dementia. A diagnosis certainly brings challenges and change, but dementia is only one part of a person's life.
 - Talk about dementia. Help raise awareness and understanding by organising information sessions and sharing experiences.
 - Ask how you can help. Sometimes we can be unsure what we can do to support a friend or neighbour, so just ask them. Small things can make all the difference.
 - Stay in touch. A diagnosis of dementia often leads to isolation so continue to call or drop in for a chat as you always did.
 - Support the person to keep up hobbies and interests. Ask clubs and community groups to ensure they are welcoming and accessible so that everyone can continue to do the things that they enjoy.
 - Make sure your service or space is easy to use. Encourage businesses and service-providers to review their premises to ensure that they are accessible and inclusive.
- By taking one small action, you will be making a big difference to the lives of people with dementia and their families in County Wicklow.

If you are passionate about dementia and want to see your community becoming dementia-inclusive, then I'd encourage you to get in touch with Fiona Foley, Dementia: Understand Together in Communities, by emailing fiona.foley1@hse.ie

For more information on dementia and how to get involved, visit www.understandtogether.ie/get-involved. If you are concerned about dementia, support is available on our Freephone 1800 341 341.

Yours sincerely

Dr Suzanne Timmons

Clinical Lead

HSE National Dementia Office Block 6, Central Business Park, Clonminch Tullamore, Co Offaly

Local business women urged to take advantage of development programme

There has been an increase in early-stage female entrepreneurs in Ireland over the past year and the call is now open for those with new businesses - or well-developed ideas - to join ACORNS 5.

Female entrepreneurs from Co. Wicklow who have previously participated on the programme are urging their fellow business owners to apply before the September 20th deadline. There is no charge for successful applicants.

ACORNS is the highly-successful development initiative to support female entrepreneurs living in rural Ireland, who wish to start and develop new businesses or have recently started a business.

Previous business owners from Wicklow who have participated on the most recent cycle of the programme include Anna Dobson of Love Mo Chuisle and Deirdre Doyle, The Cool Food School.

"Participating in ACORNS 4 has been a fantastic journey. Meeting amazing business women and having their support has pushed me to follow

my goals and succeed," said Anna Dobson of Love Mo Chuisle.

The call for applications follows the launch of the programme by Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael Creed TD. ACORNS is funded under the Department's Rural Innovation and Development Fund.

Over 200 female entrepreneurs have taken part in ACORNS to date and 50 new participants are being sought for ACORNS 5. The programme will run over six months from October 2019 to April 2020. The deadline for application for this year's cycle is 20th September 2019.

Any woman with a new business based in rural Ireland - or an idea for a new venture they want to get off the ground - can get more information and register their interest at www.acorns.ie. There is no charge for participation.

Paula Fitzsimons, founder and Managing Director of Fitzsimons Consulting, the company that developed the ACORNS initiative said that the rate of early-stage entrepreneurial activity increased among women in Ireland in 2018, while remaining stable for men. The rate of nascent female entrepreneurs in Ireland is now ranked 5th across Europe.

"In most countries more men than women are early-stage entrepreneurs. This is also true in Ireland. However, the ratio in Ireland continues to narrow and now stands at 1.6:1 (men to women early stage entrepreneurs) as more women plan and start new businesses. The ACORNS programme is critical to assist this growing body of female entrepreneurs to get their businesses off the ground and on the road to success. I am delighted that the

opportunity is being offered once again thanks to the support of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the contribution of the voluntary Lead Entrepreneurs."

ACORNS is based on peer support and collaborative learning. Each participant will have the opportunity to learn from successful female entrepreneurs - 'Lead Entrepreneurs'.

Acting in a voluntary capacity, these Lead Entrepreneurs will share their insights and experience with the group and help the participants to address the issues and challenges they face in progressing their businesses. They also act as role models, illustrating by their actions that it is possible to start and grow a successful business in rural Ireland.

Local Enterprise Office helps make Wicklow businesses Brexit ready

Special courses aimed at assisting Wicklow businesses with meeting the challenges of Brexit are included in the 2019 Autumn/Winter training programme from Wicklow Local Enterprise Office.

The Enterprise Office, part of Wicklow County Council, provides a wide range of supports to new and existing businesses located within County Wicklow.

The programme is designed specifically for new and existing small businesses so whether someone is interested in a "Starting Your Own Business" course or want to develop new skills in order to expand, there is something suitable for everyone.

The training courses are subsidised, making them affordable for everyone. Group sizes are small and courses are practical and geared specifically towards owners and employees of small businesses, providing them with skills and knowledge which can be put to immediate use.

Mr Sean Quirke, Deputy Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, said: "With Brexit almost upon us we have designed our Autumn/Winter Seminar around this important subject."

The staff of the LEO Wicklow are available to meet people interested in starting a new business or already in business and looking to expand. Businesses within the county are invited to subscribe to LEO's mailing list in order to keep up-to-date with all available supports. They can do this by sending an e-mail enterprise@wicklowcoco.ie. Full details of the current training programme as well as a booking facility are available on the LEO website localenterprise.ie/Wicklow.

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WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

DK Plant Hire intend to apply for permission for reclamation of land through the filling of material comprising of clay, silt, sand, gravel or stone on a site having an area of circa 1.9981 hectares for the purpose of improvement of land for agricultural use and temporary haul road from existing GAA carpark and ancillary works including portable truck wheel wash, office / chemical toilet at Ballinakill, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Council Buildings, Wicklow Town, during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee within 5 weeks from submission of application to Planning Authority.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I, Maurice Gallagher, seek permission for change of use from office back to retail at 3 and 4, The Boulevard, Quinnsboro Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Council Buildings, Wicklow 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

Daniel Whelan intend to apply for permission for the construction of a new dwelling, domestic garage, wastewater treatment unit & polishing filter, new well, new entrance onto lane and associate works at Ballyarthur, Avoca, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Council Buildings, Wicklow Town, during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee within 5 weeks from submission of application to Planning Authority.

PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Mark O'Neill seeks permission for a construction of partly single partly two storey extension (119.6sq.m.) with pitched roof to the side & rear of existing two storey dwelling (161.6sq.m.). Including alterations to internal layout & elevations; main roof alterations & new roof light, garage conversion, additional driveway entrance, demolition of existing single storey rear extension and all associated site development works at Mount Vernon, New Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow, A63 R894. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Council Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplandesign.com) Seeks planning permission for farm dwelling, waste water treatment system to EPA standards, garage, 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

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplandesign.com) Seeks planning permission for dwelling, waste water treatment system to EPA standards, garage, entrance, and associated works at Coolmore, Arklow, Co. Wicklow for J. Waldron and J. Sinnott. 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.

East Glendalough
car boot sale

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

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Barry and Lyndsay Tracey seek Permission for demolition of 16 sq m single storey appendage at south end of detached dormer bungalow and replacement with 40 sq m single storey extension; additional rooflights on front roof slope; stainless steel flue at rear; altered fenestration and associated site works at Robincroft, 6 Moorpark, Kilmacanogue, Co Wicklow, A98 E206. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Council Buildings, Wicklow 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. Agent: Stephen Newell Architects - www.sna.ie

Asgard
Theatre
premieres
'Howie The
Rookie'

Mark O' Rowe's 'Howie The Rookie' will be the first play to be performed at Asgard on Friday 30th August at 8pm..

There is limited capacity and early booking is advised at www.gr8events.ie Some tickets will also be available at the door on the night.

RECRUITMENT




**KILDARE AND WICKLOW
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD**

Invites expressions of interest from persons interested in becoming **Members** of its

Audit and Risk Committee

Candidates for appointment must submit written expressions of interest setting out their suitability, including finance/accounting and governance experience.

Further information is available on our website: www.kwetb.ie

Closing date for applications is **Friday 6th September 2019 at 12:00 noon.**

**Signed: Dr. Deirdre Keyes
Chief Executive**

**Kildare and Wicklow ETB, Level 5,
Aras Chill Dara, Devoy Park,
Naas, Co. Kildare.
045 988000**




**KILDARE AND WICKLOW
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD**

Invites expressions of interest from persons interested in becoming **Members** of its

Finance Committee

Candidates for appointment must submit written expressions of interest setting out their suitability, including finance/accounting and governance experience.

Further information is available on our website: www.kwetb.ie

Closing date for applications is **Friday 6th September 2019 at 12:00 noon.**

**Signed: Dr. Deirdre Keyes
Chief Executive**

**Kildare and Wicklow ETB, Level 5,
Aras Chill Dara, Devoy Park,
Naas, Co. Kildare.
045 988000**

Legal Notice

**AN CHÚIRT DÚICHE (THE DISTRICT COURT)
DISTRICT COURT AREA OF BRAY, DISTRICT NO. 16
THE PUBLIC DANCE HALL ACT, 1935, SECTION 2, 3
THE COURTS (SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS) ACT 1961
THE DISTRICT COURT RULES ORDER 86**

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF PUBLIC DANCE LICENCE

IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION OF SUGARLOAF VENTURES LIMITED IN RESPECT OF THE PREMISES KNOWN AS THE POWERSCOURT HOTEL

APPLICANT

TAKE NOTICE that Sugarloaf Ventures Limited having its registered office at Intercontinental Dublin, Simmons Court Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 being the holder of a Seven Day Publican's On-Licence intends to apply to the Annual Licensing Court, sitting at Bray District Court, Courthouse, Bray in the County of Wicklow on the 26th day of September 2019 at 10.30am or so soon thereafter as this Application may be taken, for the renewal of a Licence to use the premises known as "Killing Hollow", Powerscourt Demesne, Enniskerry in the County of Wicklow and Court Area and District aforesaid, for Public Dancing. The Applicant intends to apply for Special Exemption Orders.

Dated this 21st day of August 2019.

Signed:

Benville Robinson, Solicitors for the Applicant,
Riverview House, Seapoint Road, Bray, CO. WICKLOW

TO: The District Court Clerk, The Courthouse, Bray, CO. WICKLOW

TO: The Superintendent, An Garda Síochána, Bray, CO. WICKLOW

TO: The County Manager, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow, CO. WICKLOW

TO: The Chief Fire Officer, Fire Station, Boghall Road, Bray, CO. WICKLOW

TO: The Superintendent, An Garda Síochána, 43 Donnybrook Road, Donnybrook, DUBLIN 4.

Legal Notice

**AN CHÚIRT DÚICHE (THE DISTRICT COURT)
DISTRICT COURT AREA OF BRAY, DISTRICT NO. 16
THE PUBLIC DANCE HALL ACT, 1935, SECTION 2, 3
THE COURTS (SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS) ACT 1961
THE DISTRICT COURT RULES ORDER 86**

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF PUBLIC DANCE LICENCE

IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION OF JOHN DUGGAN AS NOMINEE OF MULTILANE LIMITED IN RESPECT OF THE PREMISES KNOWN AS THE MARTELLO HOTEL

APPLICANT

TAKE NOTICE that John Duggan as nominee of Multilane Limited having its registered office at "Laxton", Novara Avenue, Bray in the County of Wicklow being the holder of a Seven Day Publican's On-Licence intends to apply to the Annual Licensing Court, sitting at Bray District Court, Courthouse, Bray in the County of Wicklow on the 26th day of September 2019 at 10.30am or so soon thereafter as this Application may be taken, for the renewal of a Licence to use the premises known as The Martello Hotel, formerly known as The New International Hotel and situate at Strand Road, Bray in the County of Wicklow and Court area and District aforesaid, for Public Dancing. The Applicant intends to apply for Special Exemption Orders.

Dated this 21st day of August 2019.

Signed:

Benville Robinson, Solicitors for the Applicant,
Riverview House, Seapoint Road, Bray, CO. WICKLOW

TO: The District Court Clerk, The Courthouse, Bray, CO. WICKLOW

TO: The Superintendent, An Garda Síochána, Bray, CO. WICKLOW

TO: The County Manager, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow, CO. WICKLOW

TO: The Chief Fire Officer, Fire Station, Boghall Road, Bray, CO. WICKLOW

Miraculous Prayer

Dear Heart of Jesus in the past I have asked for many favours. This time I ask you this very special one. (Mention request) Take it, dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your broken Heart where your Father sees it. Then, in his merciful eyes it will become your favour not mine. St Anthony and St Jude, helper of the hopeless, aid me in my distress. Amen.

Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and favour will be granted. Never known to fail. B.C.

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