



AUTISM-FRIENDLY TOWNS page 4



BLUE LOBSTER page 15



GLAMPOTEL page 18

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Tuesday 1st October 2019 5 Eglinton Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow Tel: 01 - 2869111 www.wicklowtimes.net E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie

10% HIKE IN PROPERTY TAX

WICKLOW PROPERTY TAX NOW 29% MORE THAN DUBLIN

The decision to increase Local Property Tax in County Wicklow by 10% next year, following a vote taken by councillors last Monday, has been described as a 'betrayal' by Independent councillor Joe Behan.

"Homeowners across County Wicklow have been utterly betrayed by the Green Party, Social Democrats, Labour, Fianna Fail and Fine Gael. The decision to raise the family home tax by 10% has caused outrage among homeowners who are struggling daily to make ends meet. It is incredible that councillors had an opportunity to reduce the tax by 15% and then actually voted to increase it instead" he said.

Councillors voted 21 to 8 in favour of increasing the LPT when the proposal was put forward by Cllr Shay Cullen (FG) and seconded by Cathaoirleach Irene Winters (FG). A motion proposed by Cllr John Snell to keep it at the base rate was defeated. This is in stark contrast with neighbouring local authorities such as South Dublin Council and Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown council which reduced their LPT by 15% and Fingal which reduced it

by 10%. Wicklow's tax on the family home is now 29% dearer than these counties and with house prices in north Wicklow some of the highest in the country, we are now paying the highest Household tax. In Dublin a house valued at between €400K and 450K will pay €688 but in Wicklow a family in a similarly valued home will pay €841. Westmeath, Galway, and Louth meanwhile have voted to keep the



Arklow Chamber President Donal Murray presents Sandra Duffy of Arklow Tidy Towns with the 'Person of the Year' Award at the Arklow & District Chamber Ball and Awards in the Arklow Bay Hotel.

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LPT at the base rate, as has Laois which is one of the counties that will benefit from the equalisation fund into which Wicklow must contribute.

Independent councillors Mags Crean, Gerry O'Neill, Peir Leonard, Mary Kavanagh, John Snell, and Sinn Fein's Grace McManus and Daisy O'Brien all voted against raising the LPT, as did Cllr Edward Timmins, breaking ranks with his fellow Fine Gael councillors. Councillors Joe Behan (Family bereavement) and Labour's Paul O'Brien were absent and Cllr Tom Fortune (Ind) was present but did not support either proposal. In a protest vote he said he was voting for no LPT.

The equalisation fund means that 20% or €3.4 million of the LPT collected in Wicklow will go to a centralised fund to be dispersed among other

counties which have lower LPT.

Councillor Behan said "I, sadly, was attending the funeral of my father in law in Co. Clare while the meeting was in progress. Had I been there, I would have proposed a reduction in the present level of the tax. However, I commend my colleagues who staunchly opposed the 10% increase. Unfortunately, they were outnumbered by five political parties (FF, FG, Greens, Soc Dems and Lab) who surrendered to the management of the Council.

"The most despicable element of this family home tax is that it has simply replaced previous central government funding and is not improving life for the citizens of County Wicklow in any way. The Councillors who

(continued on p 8)

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Robyn and Holly Doyle at the Honey Festival in Ashford. See more page 15

Alzimers social group

The Alzheimer's Society host a social club for people living with dementia and their family carer every Friday morning from 11am to 12 noon in the Parkview hotel, Newtownmountkennedy. Come along for a chat and a cuppa. Phone 086 8207070 or just come along any Friday morning. This is a free and confidential service

Coffee Morning for Alzheimer Society

The next event for the Delgany Thursday Club will be on 3rd October. For this event, instead of an outing, they are holding a coffee morning in aid of the Wicklow Branch of The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, from 10:30am to 12:30pm in The Old Schoolhouse, Delgany. There will be a home produce stall, book stall and raffle. Admission is €5.00 per person to include tea/coffee.

Delgany and District Horticultural Society AGM

The Delgany and District Horticultural Society are holding their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday the 9th of October next in St Patrick's Recreation Centre on Church Road at 8.00pm. A lecture will be delivered after the short meeting by Valerie Keegan who is a specialist in Alpine Plants. All non members are welcome and tea will be served after the lecture.

Conversational English classes in Bray and Kilcoole

Bray Area Partnership's Fáilte Isteach Bray and Kilcoole conversational English classes have started up again in north Bray, south Bray and Kilcoole.

The idea of Fáilte Isteach is that volunteers teach practical conversational English to people from other countries who live and work in their community. Classes are free (but a €3 voluntary donation per class is requested) and take place through friendly small group conversations over a cup of tea. Classes are on a Wednesday night and Thursday morning in Bray, and Wednesday morning in Kilcoole. You have to register with the Partnership before attending. See www.braya-partnership.ie to find out more or call 01 286 8266.

GROW information day in Arklow

GROW Ireland, the mental health service, will hold an information day in Arklow.

Izabela Morris will start with an "An introduction to the GROW Programme and how it can help" followed by "The Importance of Creativity" by Peir Leonard, "Exercise your head" by Jenny Fortune from Genuine Fitness, "Why blend in when you are

born to stand out" by Izzy Fagan, "Expression through image making" by Dymna Nolan and information on services provided by Suicide Prevention Office with Pieta House. The talks will be followed with wellbeing activities and refreshments. This is a free event and takes place from 11.30am to 2.30pm on Wednesday 9th October in Arklow Library Just come along on the day or for more information you can contact Izabella on 086 822 3680.

Greystones Art Group open for new calendar season

Greystones Art Group has restarted for the 2019/20 season and is open to new members. Established in 1965, Greystones Art Group is one of Ireland's longest running art groups. It has a diverse set of members and is a fun and inspirational way to practice in a creative space.

The group has a variety of events throughout the month, each Monday they meet to paint, sketch, create and share inspiration. A new location is selected monthly for outdoor sketching and painting, there are also monthly talks and demonstrations by guest

artists. The talks include techniques and suggestions relating to medium, composition, colour mixing and brushwork in a fun and friendly environment. There is a small fee of €5 for non-members. Each year Greystones

Art Group participate in a number of exhibitions. The first exhibition is in November and will take place in Greystones Library. The main event, the Annual Art Exhibition, takes place in Spring and will preview the diverse works from the members of the art

group. Anyone who may be interested is invited to come along any Monday morning, South Beach Pavilion, Charlesland Golf and Country Club, from 10am to 1pm or email info@greystonesartgroup.com for further information.

Charity walk from Bray to Greystones for Mental Health Ireland

Aisling Uí Laoire is organising a walk from Greystones to Bray on Saturday, 5th October, just ahead of World Mental Health Week and would love you to join her!

Mental Health Ireland promotes positive mental health and wellbeing to all individuals and communities in Ireland. This is Aisling's fifth year organising the walk to help raise funds so that the charity can plan outings and events for those struggling with mental health in their communities.

The starting point for the walk is outside the Beach House restaurant in Greystones at 12pm on Saturday, 5th October and the walk will finish outside Butler & Barry in Bray. Aisling would like to invite everyone to come along to participate in the walk and help raise funds for a great cause. Some participants brought their dogs last year, so canine walkers are also very welcome!

There will be official collection buckets on the day of the walk to collect any donations - all donations, no matter how small will be very welcome and will greatly help the organisation support people with mental health difficulties and create awareness of mental health issues.

For anyone who cannot participate but would like to donate to the charity, please visit Aisling's online sponsorship page give.everydayhero.com/ie/walk-for-mental-health-ireland-from-greystones-to-bray or search for "Walk for Mental Health Ireland from Greystones to Bray" on Facebook where Aisling has posted the link to her sponsorship page.



Pictured are participants from last year's walk, after their arrival at Greystones Harbour

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It is also an offence for any such person to use a "firearm, trap, snare, net, line, hook, arrow, dart or spear, or a similar device, instrument or missile calculated or likely to cause death or bodily injury to any wild bird or wild mammal coming in contact with it" to "hunt a wild bird or wild animal on the land or moves or drives such a bird or such an animal off the land in order so to hunt it".

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BRAY WILL NO LONGER BE GARDA DIVISION HQ

Wexford Town will be the location of the new Garda Headquarters for the Wicklow/Wexford Division instead of Bray, it was announced last week.

Minister Simon Harris said it is very important that the Garda Commissioner Drew Harris would attend a meeting of the Wicklow Joint Policing Committee to outline to our community proposed changes to Garda structures for the area.

Speaking to *Wicklow Times*, Minister Harris said: "My priority and the priority of our community is to ensure adequate numbers of Gardaí on the streets. I very much welcome the fact that the number of Gardaí in Co Wicklow has increased in recent years and that the failed policy of Fianna Fáil to shut down Templemore to recruitment has been reversed by Fine Gael in Government. I remain absolutely committed to continuing to work to ensure adequate Garda resources for our County. As a former Chairperson of our County's Joint Policing Committee, I think it would be highly appropriate that the Garda Commissioner would attend a meeting of that committee or another appropriate forum to outline his views in terms of any structural reform that could impact on Co Wicklow. It's paramount that the community are consulted in relation to this and that assurances are received that these changes will result in more

Gardaí patrolling our streets and more resources for our County."

Fianna Fáil TD Pat Casey said the decision to place the Garda Headquarters in South Wexford "makes no sense and once again proves that Wicklow loses out on Government decisions affecting the county".

He said "Wicklow and Wexford are very large geographic areas to provide policing cover and the obvious logical choice would have been to consider Wicklow Town or Arklow as the location due to population divisions. Once again Wicklow has been ignored and instead Wexford Town which is in the South of the County is being chosen as the new Divisional HQ."

"Even though we are promised additional Garda on the ground as a result of this I would like to remind people that this is what was promised when Garda stations were closed in Donard and Stepside. The major population concentration of the division is in North Wicklow and therefore having the Divisional HQ at the Southern end of Wexford seems very odd."

"Unfortunately this is not the first time Wicklow has been let down by Fine Gael in Government. When the Education and Training Boards were merged the Headquarters were assigned to Kildare

with the establishment of the KWETB."

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

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has said the loss of the Garda divisional headquarters in Bray is a big blow that will have a detrimental impact on policing across Wicklow.

Speaking after Garda HQ announced that the new Divisional HQ for the newly merged Wicklow/Wexford division is to be located in Wexford Deputy Brady said "The loss of divisional headquarters in Bray is deeply concerning and I have genuine concerns that the level of policing in Wicklow will be directly impacted by this retrograde decision."

"I know there has been major concern across the 18 Garda divisions that are being merged into nine 'super divisions' and what way the new structures would be implemented. Under the new Garda Commissioner Drew Harris's Operating Model Wicklow and Wexford Garda divisions merged. Unfortunately these fears have now materialised and the Wicklow divisional

HQ which is currently based in Bray will cease and it will now be in Wexford."

Deputy Brady went on to say "Crime across Wicklow is unfortunately on the rise and we have struggled to tackle it due to the lack of Garda numbers. I fear that removing the Divisional Headquarters out of Wicklow will result in less resources being prioritised for County Wicklow to tackle crime."

"Garda Commissioner Drew Harris has been invited to the next meeting of the Wicklow Joint Policing Committee to discuss the new operating model. I hope that he takes up that invite so he can be questioned on the rational of this crazy decision, a decision that I fear will have dire consequences for Wicklow."

Reacting to the news, Stephen Donnelly TD said he won't allow the Government to simply forget about the safety of Wicklow residents.

He explained, "It has unfortunately been decided that operations will be controlled from the Garda Station in Wexford Town. This is concerning for Wicklow residents, many of whom will live relatively far away from the new Garda HQ. This is especially troubling for people living furthest away in the north of Wicklow. In fact, the latest figures from Wicklow's Joint Policing Committee bear this out: For my part, I'm determined not to let Wicklow be overshadowed when it comes to public safety issues. The decision of Fine Gael to close 139 rural Garda stations, including ours in Donard, has undoubtedly had an adverse impact on crime rates. We know that the Government has constantly denied there is a problem with rural crime saying that the statistics are down, but this is not the experience of families coming to me."

Minister Andrew Doyle said "I do have my concerns. We must ensure that we have enough Gardaí on the streets here in Wicklow. This issue has been discussed at the local Joint Policing Committee meeting and the JPC are anxious to meet with the Garda Commissioner to discuss these changes."



Pictured are Fiachra Garvey and Isata Kanneh-Mason at her Culture Night concert in Russborough House

N81 named most dangerous road in County Wicklow

A segment of the N81 Road is the most dangerous road in Co. Wicklow, according to new data.

According to research conducted by Gamma Lacion Intelligence, location intelligence services provider, the segment of road south of Poulaphouca Bridge, 1.8km north of junction with R411, east of Kildare border, is the most lethal section of road in the county with 76 road accidents (injury collisions) per 100 million vehicle kilometres.

The company provides location-based insights to insurance companies and local authorities. According to the research, the most dangerous segment of road in Ireland is a section of the N59 in Galway.

Gamma's Perilfinder platform has an in-built Road Accident Model which collates data from the Road Safety Authority, Transport Infrastructure Ireland and the Central Statistics Office to analyse and present accident data to show where most collisions happen. The software also offers risk assessment insights for other perils such as flooding, fire and subsidence.

Director of Location Intelligence for Gamma, Richard Garry said: "Overall, according to the data provided by Transport Infrastructure Ireland, collision rates are decreasing across the country. However, there are specific stretches of roads where

the frequency of collisions is still high.

"Not only does this analysis show drivers

where they need to take extra care, it is also useful for insurance companies as it identifies the

areas which are worst for road accidents and enables them to better assess risk."

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Greystones Cancer Support took part in Ireland's Biggest Coffee Morning in aid of Wicklow Hospice Foundation, and there was a fabulous level of support shown locally. Sonia Walsh, Chairperson of Greystones Cancer Support said "Over €750 was raised at this special coffee morning. GCS is always happy to support Wicklow Hospice Foundation, helping them to make their dream a reality. This beautiful new hospice is expected to open January 2020." Pictured at the coffee morning were Laura Kavanagh, Clive Evans, Carole Kinsella, Sonia Walsh, Rosaleen Kavanagh and Pat Toner.

Sláintecare funding secured for Bray and North Wicklow

Bray Area Partnership has been successful in securing significant funding for a Social Prescribing project for the Bray and North Wicklow area, through the Sláintecare Integration Fund.

The new project is called ASPIRE - which stands for Adult Social Prescribing for Individual Resilience and Empowerment. Social Prescribing supports individuals to manage their own health and wellbeing in the community by linking them up with activities and supports that suit their individual needs.

"We're thrilled to have succeeded in bringing this funding to the local area", said Jennifer D'Arcy from Bray Area Partnership. "Social Prescribing is a brilliant development that empowers people to choose the supports they need for their own health and wellbeing in their own community. This new funding means we can greatly expand our current social prescribing service, which is funded through Healthy Ireland."

See www.brayareapartnership.ie to find out more.

Wicklow towns on the way to becoming Autism-Friendly

Greystones, Bray and Wicklow Town are among the 11 Irish towns on the journey to becoming autism-friendly. SuperValu, in partnership with AsIAM, Ireland's national autism charity and advocacy organisation last year announced Clonakilty as Ireland's first Autism-Friendly Town and 11 towns are now on the journey to join them.

In conjunction with the announcement, a survey conducted by AsIAM showed that presently, the autism community does not find society accessible, understanding and inclusive - but that simple steps could be taken to help change this. A total of 240 people were surveyed who either have autism or know someone closely who does. Those surveyed were asked several questions about their perception of how autism is recognised and understood in retail and in the wider community.

Despite the majority of those surveyed claiming that the public do not understand enough about autism, 71% believe awareness and understanding of autism has increased in Ireland in the last year. On this, AsIAM CEO Adam Harris says that "awareness and understanding of autism needs to shift to acceptance and support".

Simple measures can be the difference between exclusion and inclusion, and the survey showed it wouldn't take a lot for people with autism to have their experiences improved. For example, 50% of respondents said that even if staff were understanding of autism it would greatly improve their experience.

The aim of this campaign is to communicate the message that communities fully accessible for autistic people are stronger, more sustainable places to live. Anne Daly, Owner of SuperValu Greystones commented, "SuperValu Greystones is delighted to be on a journey to help make our community more autism-friendly. As well as autism-friendly shopping in our store we're working with organisations and businesses throughout the community to make Greystones inclusive and autism friendly. We have a fantastic Autism Friendly Committee here in Greystones. I am confident that our



In SuperValu in Greystones promoting the autism-friendly town initiative are Maciek Kudelski, Anne Daly, Kinga Gasz, Paul Condren, Paddy Holohan. The scheme, which is run as a partnership between the charity 'As I am' and supermarket chain 'SuperValu', announced Clonakilty in Cork as Ireland's first autism-friendly town last year, and Greystones, Bray and Wicklow Town will now go the same route.

journey to getting accreditation will be a successful one!" AsIAM CEO Adam Harris added, "As Ireland's National Autism Organisation we are proud to have developed a robust but achievable framework for communities to become autism friendly, in partnership with our colleagues in SuperValu. Autistic people live, work and play in every community across the country. Too often a lack of understanding prevents autistic people from fully participating and contributing to the community. Small steps can make a big difference and communities working together to increase understanding and improve accessibility will bring about happier, healthier lives for autistic people. We look forward to supporting these towns as they go on the journey towards our accreditation."

Fianna Fáil Spokesperson on Health, Stephen Donnelly, has welcomed the news that Bray, Greystones and Wicklow Town will become autism friendly towns over the next 12 months. Deputy Donnelly

commented, "This announcement is an enormously positive development not just for those living with autism, but it's a huge step forward for their families and friends, as well as the entire community. It's a great show of solidarity and makes our society a more tolerant and welcoming place to be. I would like to commend everyone involved in making this possible.

"Instead of having a situation where there are stand-offs between the Education Minister and certain schools each year, we believe

the Minister should order a five-year projection to be carried out. Schools need to be aware of upcoming likely demand for special needs places, the supports which are available to them to open new special classes, and create a list of how many spaces will be required.

"In other words, we need to get to a point where the provision of special needs education is planned for adequately. In the meantime, we can all do our own part to foster inclusion and autism friendly towns are a superb example of just that."

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Irish Water to immediately tackle odours at Murrough Sewage Treatment Plant

Irish Water has confirmed that it will immediately carry out a number of actions at the Murrough Sewage Waste water pumping station. The measures are to tackle the foul odours that have been coming from the plant and work will be carried out over the next couple of weeks.

Speaking after getting a progress update from Irish Water on actions they are to take following the publishing of a report from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) John Brady TD said "This week I got a briefing from Irish Water on some of the immediate actions that they are taking to tackle the serious odours emanating from the Murrough Sewage Treatment Plant and pumping station. In the coming weeks they are to move and upgrade the odour abatement unit at the pumping station. They also intend on carrying out comprehensive tests on all ventilation and seals within the unit. This will be done using a series of smoke bombs being let off within the unit to see if there is a breakdown in the ventilation allowing the bad odours escape from the facility.

"In July I lodged a complaint with the EPA in relation with the serious

ongoing foul odours coming from the wastewater facilities in Wicklow Town. This complaint was subsequently followed up by inspections by the EPA, both the pumping station and the Treatment plant were inspected twice. On foot of those inspections the EPA compiled a full report and Irish Water has been instructed to carry out a number of actions to address the problem without delay. So I'm glad that action is finally being taken on foot of the complaint that I lodged on behalf of the local community.

"There are a number of other measures that need to be carried out such as the appointment of a local liaison person by Irish Water. That person is to contact the local community and to arrange a meeting with the residents to discuss the foul odour issues and to inform them on how and when Irish Water will address them."

Deputy Brady concluding "I welcome this progress; however the actions need to happen as quickly as possible so that the nightmare that local people have had to live with over a number of years finally ends. I will continue to work with the local community, Irish Water and the EPA to ensure that the serious problem is resolved."



P.J O'Neill, Alvin Griffin, John Griffin and Mervyn Griffin are pictured at the Rathdrum Offroad Club's recent Grasstrack event at Ballyknocken

'Overcrowding on trains now dangerously high'

Fianna Fáil TD Pat Casey has written to the Minister for Transport and the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission to express his concern over chronic overcrowding on board Irish Rail services.

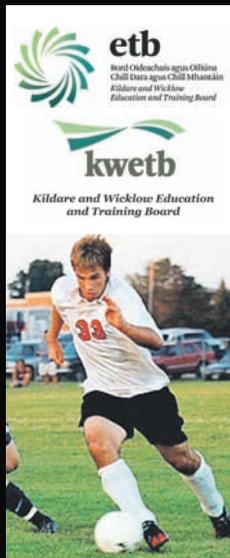
Deputy Casey explained "Rail overcrowding is now at absolutely chronic levels, even at off-peak times. We heard of one Wicklow to Dublin service last week where passengers were left standing for over an hour after the train quickly filled up. "I commend anyone who leaves the car at home and travels using a sustainable mode of transport, and I firmly believe that these passengers deserve much better treatment than this.

"Many Wicklow passengers take extra care to book their train tickets ahead of time because they need a seat for their journey, but on overpacked trains, they often can't access the seat they have pre-booked.

"The Minister has been in his role for more than three years and yet he has failed to procure much-needed additional train carriages for Wicklow. He has been unable to provide adequate alternatives, and now Irish Rail cannot meet the demands being placed on its services.

"This overcrowding could be avoided if Minister Ross had not wasted more than a year tendering to refurbish 24 old carriages, which proved to be totally impractical. Now new carriages for Wicklow will not be delivered until 2023 at the earliest.

"The current situation is unsafe, and it is unfair to the travelling public. I have written to the Minister expressing my concerns over this and have asked him to outline what measures his Department will be taking in the short term. Furthermore, in light of the consumer protection issues at play here, Fianna Fáil have written to the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission requesting an investigation into this matter".



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Juno Cherry-Roberts and Josie Cavanagh from East Glendalough School and Sophie Reynolds from Dominican College protesting in Fitzwilliam Square

Wicklow Town students protest for climate action

Three first year secondary school students, Juno Cherry-Roberts and Josie Cavanagh from East Glendalough School and Sophie Reynolds from Dominican College protested on Fitzwilliam Square, Wicklow Town for climate change on Friday 20th September.

Their schools were very supportive of the idea that they would do a local protest rather than commute to the mass march taking place in Dublin. "We were delighted when our school encouraged us to do something local and we were thrilled with all the local support we have received," said Josie Cavanagh.

The group was joined by local TD and Minister of State for Food, Forestry and Horticulture Andrew Doyle and he discussed the issue of climate change with them. "Andrew is very interested in climate change and supported our protest, we were delighted that he joined us on the day, he stayed and protested with us for 40 minutes and shared with us information on climate change," said Juno Cherry-Roberts. Throughout the afternoon other school students spontaneously came to protest with the group, within one hour the group of three were almost 20 in number.

This spontaneous event received much local support with shop keepers coming out to watch and applause, many people passing by encouraged the group in their chants. "We would love to host another local protest and would hope that other students from local schools will join us," said Sophie Reynolds.

'GOVERNMENT MUST PRIORITISE FLOOD DEFENCE WORKS'

Wicklow Fianna Fáil TD Pat Casey, has said the Government must prioritise flood defence works for Wicklow and Arklow Towns immediately following a two-year wait since commitments were given by Minister Kevin 'Boxer' Moran.

His calls come as a European-wide study showed that Ireland and other parts of north-western Europe will bear the brunt of increasingly severe flooding caused by climate change.

Deputy Casey said, "Lest there be any doubt about it, Wicklow is in the path of a storm. We know from this very substantive study that floods are increasing in Ireland and north-western Europe because global warming is increasing moisture in the atmosphere, making storms wetter, and shifting the track of incom-

ing storms northward, bringing more rainfall to the region.

"It is only going to get worse as global warming escalates and we have to be prepared. Flood defence works still have not been completed in various counties, including Roscommon town and Carrick on Shannon - areas which have been devastated by flooding before.

"Wicklow County Council has recently adopted a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and this clearly states that one of the most severe threats



Pat Casey TD

Wicklow and Arklow Towns face is from coastal damage from increased erosion due to more extreme weather events.

"We need to see increased funding over

the next number of years to address the ongoing and continuous flood risks. In this instance failing to prepare is most certainly preparing to fail.

"Met Éireann have issued a status yellow warning recently citing flood risk. The summer is at an end now and we are going to see a lot more weather warnings over the coming months. The Government must prioritise flood defence works and demonstrate that they understand the magnitude of what's ahead of us", concluded Deputy Casey.

Be 'Planet Positive' and plant a tree this Thursday

The Tree Council of Ireland is calling on primary schools across Wicklow to get involved in Tree Day and plant a tree on Thursday, 3rd October.

The theme for this year's campaign is "Be Planet Positive!", with a focus on the things that primary school children can easily do in their everyday lives to help nature and our environment.

Tree Day is an important date in the school calendar that gives children, teachers and parents the opportunity to put down the school books, get outdoors and learn to become more environmentally aware.

From September, the campaign's mascot Sammy Squirrel will feature on Avonmore school milk cartons and share seven simple messages on how to make better choices and be planet positive.

As part of Tree Day, up to 1,000 native tree saplings will be made available through the campaign website for primary schools to plant on their grounds, or in a pot in the classroom. More details about the cam-

paign including guided woodland walks, class lessons, fun tree facts, activities and more can be found on www.tree-day.ie.

Joseph McConville, President of the Tree Council of Ireland, commented: "Planting trees is considered to be one of the best ways to tackle climate change. For this year's Tetra Pak Tree Day, we have up to 1,000 Spindle tree saplings to give away to primary schools. We are encour-

aging primary school teachers around the country to get outside with their students and plant a tree, which is also one of the requirements to achieve the Green-School's Green Flag for Biodiversity."

Each year Tree Day places a focus on a different native tree. This year the spotlight is on the Spindle tree or An Feoras, which can be found most commonly on the edges of forests and in hedgerows.

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Be Planet Positive & Plant a Tree this Tree Day. Pictured at the launch of last year's Tree Day in Phoenix Park is Emily Sweeney

Campaign targets illegal killing of wild deer

The Irish Deer Commission (IDC) supported by Government Agencies and key Stakeholder Groups have launched a campaign to help create awareness of the significant increase in Wildlife Crime in Ireland, focusing on the illegal killing of wild deer and Deer Poaching.

The campaign titled "Keep Deer Poaching in Sight" was developed by the Irish Deer Commission with the support of the Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht, An Garda Síochána, Coillte Teo, National Association of Regional Game Councils (NARGC), Countryside Alliance Ireland, British Deer Society and the Deer Alliance to increase awareness among the general public and in particular those who live in our rural communities or those who use our countryside for recreational activities such as walkers and hunters.

Wild deer are a protected species under our Wildlife Acts and an important part of our natural heritage however criminals are increasingly

exploiting deer for financial gain, creating animal welfare issues and a risk to human health. After drug importation, firearms and human trafficking, wildlife crime generates the highest illegal income for criminals across Europe.

In the absence of a natural predator, deer as a species need to be managed to minimise their impact on farmland, forestry and the wider ecosystem, this is achieved via licensed deer hunters/wildlife managers carrying out an important role in keeping deer numbers at sustainable levels with regard for animal welfare, livestock and those living in rural communities.

A spokesperson for the IDC stated "We would encourage members of the

public, hunters and those who live in the countryside to report suspected deer poaching activity to their local Garda Station and/or to the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Conservation Ranger. The use of powerful lamps to confuse wild deer where they are then shot or set upon by dogs and bludgeoned to death, or increasingly the use of night vision equipment, coursing deer with dogs, and armed trespass are just some of the illegal activities we see."

The spokesperson also stated "the illegal killing of wild deer puts the management and conservation of wild deer at risk, along with livestock and rural communities at risk of harm or serious injury."

In a further positive

development An Garda Síochána have appointed liaison Inspectors in all 28 Garda Divisions who will specialise in the detection and prosecution of wildlife crime under the Wildlife Acts.

The open seasons for deer hunting are as follows: 1 September to 31 December (male fallow deer); 1 November to 28 February (Female and Antlerless Fallow Deer); 1 September to 31 December (Male Sika Deer); 1 November to 28 February (Female and Antlerless Sika Deer); 1 September to 31 December in all counties except Kerry (Male Red Deer); 1 November to 28 February in all counties except Kerry (Female and Antlerless Red Deer; 1 September to 31 August (Muntjac Deer).



Pictured: Karen Keenahan, Orla Lambert and Trish Shanley at the Culture Night concert by Isata Kanneh-Mason in Russborough House.

'Deadline needed to keep hopes of West Wicklow swimming pool afloat'

Campaigners for a swimming pool in West Wicklow need to know exactly when building will start, Stephen Donnelly TD has said.

He explained, "The Government has repeatedly promised to help build a community pool in the Blessington area, but hopes are starting to fade as it looks like it's been all talk and no action.

"During the summer the Minister for Health gave a public commitment that the pool would be open in two years' time. That would see it up and running by August 2021. To date however there's been no mention of a start date for construction. In fact, there hasn't even been an agreement yet on when the funding will be granted, never mind, where it will be built or who will design it.

"I met with the campaign group a few days ago and they're getting really frustrated with the lack of progress. I've submitted a Parliamentary Question which asks the Government to once and for all put its money where its mouth is and pick a date to start building. It's sink or swim time", concluded Deputy Donnelly.

Funding approved for development of specialist sensory garden

Funding of €34,000 will be given to Knockananna Community Group for the development of a specialist sensory garden under the Department of Rural and Community Development's 2019 CLÁR programme, it was announced last week.

In total over €714,000 will be divided among 25 community groups around the for specialist sensory gardens.

This is the first year that this measure, Specialist Sensory Gardens and Complementary Play Equipment, has been funded under the programme. A sensory garden is designed to stimulate the senses by using flowers, plants and materials that engage one's senses of sight, smell, touch, taste and sound. They provide benefit to all members of the community, as places for recreation and education.

Speaking last week, Minister Michael Ring said "This year's CLÁR programme will, for the first time, provide funding for the development of specialist sensory gardens and complementary play equipment. These gardens are designed to stimulate the senses and can be of particular benefit in enhancing the quality of life for people with a diverse range of life challenges.

"I am delighted to support the development of these gardens, which I know will create comfortable, relaxing environments for everyone to enjoy, no matter what their age or ability. I see the hard work done by members of community groups up and down the country, and I am pleased that my Department can play its part in the work of this government to support and invest in communities for the benefit of all."



Ray Gaffney, with Sonia Casey TD and Pat Casey TD at the Arklow & District Chamber Ball and Awards in the Arklow Bay Hotel



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10% HIKE IN PROPERTY TAX

(continued from p 1)

voted for the increase know that and yet they still increased it. Questions must be asked about the behind closed doors meetings between certain councillors and the



Cllr Joe Behan described the LPT increase as a 'betrayal'

Council management in the days leading up to the vote. I want to know if deals were done with political parties or individual councillors to secure their vote for a 10% increase in this tax. I would like to know if there is any record of what was said in these meetings. It is undemocratic and an insult to the homeowners of County Wicklow that their home tax bill is increased by 10% and some of the pre-meeting discussions were in private. People have a right to know what was said and I call on the councillors who supported this tax hike to reveal what was discussed.

"It is clear now that the five parties who voted for the tax increase have worked together to shaft the people of County Wicklow. The people will not forget this when next they cast their vote."

Cllr Tom Fortune acknowledged the 'funding crisis' for the Council, but was adamant that a

different solution could have been found. He made a number of suggestions, including that Wicklow not pay anything into the equalisation fund, but was told by the Council executive that this was not possible. He also suggested that the Council; review some projects with a view to delaying some for 10 months; Borrow the €2.5m required for this year; and carry out a root and branch cost review of all spending for the next year.

Speaking after the meeting, Cllr Fortune said "I strongly believe that the residents in Wicklow cannot afford a 10% increase. What is happening here is that councillors are being dumped on. Why? Because the government believe they can do it. This is not ok and not in the interests of the residents of Wicklow. You would not run any business in this way, it is just crazy. A serious stand needs to be taken on this issue, that is the only way we will solve it. This is a crisis for Wicklow and requires urgent action before our budget meeting on 25th November. I feel very strongly that this meeting today was a waste of time, an exercise in lip service, as everything was agreed before the meeting started."

Independent councillor Mags Crean said "I was disappointed with fellow councillors targeting homeowners that can be forced to pay rather than refusing the increase and putting the pressure on central Government to deliver what are vital services in our community. Local Government expenditure on local councils is at 8% compared to the EU average of 23% so we

need to challenge this. "People are sick of pro-



Councillors are being 'dumped on' by the Government, said Cllr Tom Fortune.

itics when they feel their voice is not being represented. Nearly 90% of submissions said no to an increase and most homeowners can't face more taxes but this was not reflected in how their councillors voted. Instead, they voted how they thought was best when really they need to start listening. People pay income tax and indirect tax so there is no issue with paying tax, rather people are fed up with a local property tax that is unaffordable, inequitable and not fit for purpose."

Cllr Daisy O'Brien (SF) said, "Before the Local and European Elections, the government took a decision to yet again delay announcing their planned increase in local property tax valuations. Likewise, not one recommendation from a review of the LPT was implemented. Clearly this approach was borne out of fear of the political backlash. However, after the elections the majority of Wicklow councillors took the decision to hike up the LPT. In full knowledge that this tax is fundamentally flawed, in full

opinion on this tax was clearly negative and ultimately in full knowledge that an increase in this unjust tax would increase the burden on many homeowners across the County."

Cllr Grace McManus (SF) said "I'm surprised at the lack of dynamic thinking around revenue raising. We cannot and should not just vote for the easy option because it's the one in front of us, yet this was done despite knowing the hardship it will cause. Voting to increase a tax is voting to endorse that tax. I do not endorse the LPT and therefore did not support this increase."



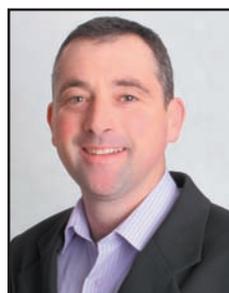
'Most homeowners can't face more taxes', said Independent Cllr Mags Crean

Independent councillor Rory O'Connor who voted for the increase (causing speculation that he might be re-joining Fianna Fáil) said "It's impossible to justify the LPT increase, it's an outdated tax, which has lived far past its prime. It's not only bad for the local authority but also for your everyday taxpayer. It leaves the local authority dependent on it, which in our case happened. We're stuck between increasing the LPT by 10% or losing out on grants, which Wicklow County Council

applied for, totalling €17 million. The reason why we needed a 10% increase was due to the match funding rule for these grants. All my fellow Councillors, who voted for the increase only did so if it lasted only a year."

Cllr Shay Cullen (FG) who proposed the 10% increase said "I don't think there is anyone in this chamber that wants to put up property tax, but unfortunately as the figures have been put in front of us it certainly is something we have to consider." Cllr Cullen lamented both the 'unfair' equalization fund and the deferral of the LPT review, but said "This is a once-off situation. Hopefully, whatever Government is in place next year will address the issues which should result in buoyancy for counties such as ourselves."

Cllr Jennifer Whitmore (SD) called the LPT system "not fit for purpose", but also acknowledged that the decision to increase the LPT was necessary due to the financial reality the Council is facing and decreased funding from Government that's made Wicklow one of the most poorly funded counties per head of popula-



'This is a once-off situation,' said Cllr Shay Cullen, who proposed a 10% increase

tion. Cllr Whitmore said "Wicklow is really disadvantaged by the current system. When you look at the actual facts and figures, Wicklow is the third lowest expenditure per capita by local authority. We are one of the lowest when it comes to council staff per thousand, we also get one of the lowest amounts of Government



'Other ways could have been considered', said Minister Simon Harris, who described the Council's decision as 'unfortunate'

council grants per capita. So, Wicklow is really falling way behind and yet we still have to give 20% of our money to other counties that get much more money from the Government than we do. This is a complete failure of the LPT system, but I also believe it's a failure of the TDs in Wicklow. We need TDs that will be fighting for this council and for the people of Wicklow."

Explaining why he voted to increase the LPT, Green Party councillor Steven Matthews said "The core issue here lies with government and the tax itself, and not with councillors who are left between a rock and a hard place. The serious budget issues facing Co Wicklow are because we are not receiving sufficient funding from central government. The choice we had was to leave the tax at its current rate and then not carry out any improvements to our public places in our Municipal Districts. None of us wanted to do this, it would have been much easier to duck from a hard unpopular decision and blame other politicians while our towns and communities suffer with no support or improvements from their council. But the majority of us took an unpopular decision and will face some anger."

Minister Simon Harris said "I think it is unfortunate that the Council took the decision to increase property taxes as I really believe that other ways could have been consid-

ered. I will continue to work for reform of the property tax system. It is of course important that local authorities are funded to provide important public services and I know that the property tax is an important revenue stream in that regard however I do feel there is a need to reform the property tax system to particularly take cognisance to the fact that house prices in North Co Wicklow can be disproportionately high relative to other parts of the country. I do hope that reforms Government will consider in due course in



'The blame lies with the Fine Gael Independent Government', says Pat Casey TD

relation to the property tax will address what I consider to be an anomaly in that regard."

John Brady TD (Sinn Féin) sharply criticised the decision by the majority of Wicklow County Councillors to increase the Property Tax and called on the Government to scrap the local property tax 'once and for all'.

Deputy Brady said: "The LPT is a tax on people's homes and Sinn Féin believe it should be abolished in favour of a fairer and more progressive system of funding local government. Remember people were told by Labour and Fine Gael that they have to pay this extra tax to get extra public services, like libraries, public lighting, playgrounds and other basic services that people already pay for through PAYE, PRSI, USC, road tax, bin charges, toll charges, hospital charges - the list is endless. The local property tax is punitive and a regressive tax. People have paid huge

amounts of taxes, such as Stamp Duty when purchasing their home already. Home owners in Wicklow steeped in mortgage debt they cannot afford, and negative equity simply cannot take a hike on what



'The LPT should be abolished', says John Brady TD

is in effect a tax on their debt."

Pat Casey TD (FF) who was the only TD to attend the meeting said "The blame for the property tax increase of 10% for Wicklow lies totally with the Fine Gael Independent Government who have delayed the Valuations process due to be brought in this year until after the General Election. This would have meant that the 4,500 properties in Wicklow that currently pay no LPT would have contributed this year and therefore the funding gap would have been closed. The 10% increase for this year is ringfenced to ensure that vital public services and projects in Wicklow are protected due to the political decisions by Minister Eoghan Murphy to underfund Wicklow. I hope that this is a once off occurrence."

Minister Andrew Doyle (FG) said "the decision is essentially down to the Local Authority; however, it is interlinked with the Government's equalization fund. It was agreed to increase it by 10% as a reluctant temporary measure for one year only and ensures that the discretionary fund is maintained in each municipal district. The increase is for one year only."

Stephen Donnelly TD (FF) was unavailable to comment on why his party had voted for the increase on household tax.

Average Wicklow house price now €333,000

House prices in the third quarter of 2019 in Co. Wicklow were 2% lower than a year previously, compared to a fall of 8% seen a year ago, according to the latest Daft.ie Sales Report released last week. The average house price is now €333,000, 32% below peak levels.

Nationally, housing prices in the third quarter of 2019 were just 0.1% higher than a year previously, effectively marking the end of six years of rising housing prices.

The average price nationwide in the third quarter of the year was €257,000, down just over €4,000 on the second quarter of the year. Compared to its lowest point in 2013, the average price nationwide is now 57% higher - but still over 30% lower than in 2007.

In Dublin, the annual inflation rate for prices has turned negative, with average prices in the capital 0.6% lower in the third quarter of 2019 than a year previously. In the other major cities, inflation is still positive, with

year-on-year increases of just below 3% in Cork and Galway and roughly 5% in Limerick and Waterford cities. Outside the cities, inflation is also negative in Leinster (-1%) and Connacht-Ulster (-0.6%) but remains at 2.5% in Munster.

The number of properties available to buy on the market nationwide was just under 25,000 in September, largely unchanged from a year ago. This breaks down differently across the country, however, with availability up year-on-year in both Dublin (1.9%) and the rest of Leinster (4.5%) but down in Munster, Connacht and Ulster by between 3% and 5%.

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You really should have an Enduring Power of Attorney The power to put your mind at rest and your affairs in order for the future

Many people are alarmed to be told that just because you are the 'Next of Kin' that you do not have the authority to make decisions for your loved one if they become mentally incapacitated due to injury or accident.

The medical profession will require that an Enduring Power of Attorney be in existence, as indeed will other professions such as accountants and banks.

Safeguarding Ireland earlier this month said more people 'Thinking Ahead' would help to reduce and prevent abuse of vulnerable adults.

Recent research, commissioned by Safeguarding Ireland, showed that just 6% of adults had appointed an Attorney under Enduring Power of Attorney, and just 8% had discussed a preferred place of care.

"When people don't have their choices, preferences and decisions legally stated - and they have a

life-changing accident, become seriously ill, or frail due to age - they are reliant on the honesty of friends and family. In most cases people's wishes are upheld by loved ones.

"Unfortunately, it is estimated that up to 10% of people are dishonest in how they manage a vulnerable person's money. That is why it is very important for all of us to appoint an Attorney and also put in place an Advance Healthcare Directive."

SO WHAT IS AN ENDURING POWER OF ATTORNEY?

"An Enduring Power of Attorney is a legal doc-

ument which allows an individual to choose to appoint a specific individual (usually a close family member) to look after both your person and financial affairs in the event that for any reason you lose your mental capacity in the future. We at Probate Ireland must stress that an enduring power of attorney is only valid or effective if you lose your mental capacity at some future point in time. An enduring power of attorney can be an extremely powerful document that significantly bypasses the hurdles and problems your family could face when trying to deal with your affairs should you become incapable. The main purpose of an enduring power of attorney is to enable somebody of your choosing to have the entitlement to manage your financial and personal affairs for you if you lose your mental capacity at some future date."

AN ENDURING POWER OF ATTORNEY CREATES PEACE OF MIND

The execution of an enduring power of attorney is an excellent way of planning for the future and provides a mechanism for the management of the donor's affairs in the event that the donor becomes incapable of doing so themselves in

the future.

Unlike a general power of attorney which has immediate effect once executed, an enduring power of attorney will only come into effect at a later date should the donor become incapable of managing their affairs. The enduring power of attorney will not come into force should you remain in control of your affairs.

As a donor of an enduring power of attorney, there are a number of safeguards designed to protect you.

When executing an enduring power of attorney, you can decide as to the scope of your affairs that you wish to have delegated to your attorneys. As donor, you can decide whether to grant authority for the control of your financial affairs, personal care, housing, medical affairs, etc.

Your solicitor will take great care in discussing all options so as to determine what is best for you. An enduring power of attorney therefore allows you to maintain control of your affairs until such time as you may become unable to do so yourself through mental incapacity.

WHY BOTHER WITH AN ENDURING POWER OF ATTORNEY?

Have you considered how you or your family would cope if you were to suffer from some accident or illness which deprived you of the men-

tal capacity to look after your own affairs?

With advances in medical care, increasing life expectancy and varying property values there is a growing need for people to make arrangements which can be brought into effect in the event of mental incapacity arising.

Under the Powers of Attorney Act 1996 it is possible for you to make provision for these situations by setting up an enduring power of attorney. Your solicitor can explain the formalities and arrange for you to sign the necessary document now while you have the good health and the capacity to make the decision as to the person or persons whom you would wish to look after your affairs should the need arise. If a person loses mental capacity without having signed a valid Enduring Power of Attorney then in order to manage the person's property and affairs it is necessary to have such a person made a Ward of Court. This can be an expensive and lengthy process so having an enduring power of attorney in place is preferable.

There are many ways in which a person might lose mental capacity; Alzheimer's disease; Dementia; Stroke; Accident, etc.

By setting up an enduring power of attorney in advance you are able to choose some person or persons to deal with your affairs in a situation where you are no longer capable of doing so yourself. If you suffer such a setback and you do not have an enduring power of attorney in place then if your financial and property affairs are to be administered it will be necessary for an application to be made to the High Court to have you made a Ward of Court and to have someone appointed to take charge of your affairs.

An EPA must also include Notice Parties which are usually further family members who will be notified by Registered Post that you have made such an EPA. The Notice Parties will have the power to object if they believe anything untoward regarding request for same or prior to registering your EPA. Once the EPA is registered your Attorney(s) will have the authority and power to deal fully with your finances and property and



in addition may also be given power over your personal care decisions, diet and dress. An EPA does not come into force unless it is registered.

THE EFFECT OF CREATING ENDURING POWER

An enduring power of attorney enables you to choose a person (called an "attorney") to manage

your property and affairs in the event of your becoming mentally incapable of doing so. You may choose one attorney or more than one. If you choose more than one, you must decide whether they are to be able to act jointly (that is, they must all act together and cannot act separately), or jointly and severally (that is, they can all act together but they can also act separately if they wish).

If you give your attorney(s) general power in relation to all your property and affairs, they will be able to deal with your money or property and may be able to sell your house.

If you do not want your attorney(s) to have such wide powers, you can include any restrictions you like. For example, you can include a restriction that your attorney(s) may not sell your house.

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ENDURING POWER OF ATTORNEY



You may authorise the attorney(s) to take certain personal care decisions on your behalf, e.g. deciding where you shall live. If you decide to do so, you should indicate, the particular personal care decisions you want to authorise. You should also name any person you would like the attorney to consult so that the attorney can have regard to that person's views as to your wishes and feelings and as to what would be in your best interests.

Unless you put in a restriction preventing it, your attorney(s) will be able to use any of your money or property to benefit themselves or other people by doing what you yourself might be expected to do to provide for their needs.

You may also appoint an attorney or attorney(s) to act in the event that the original attorney is unable or unwilling to act.

You must give notice of the execution of the enduring power of attorney as soon as practicable to at least two persons. None of them may be an attorney under the enduring power of attorney. At least one must be the donor's spouse, if living with the donor. If the

donor is unmarried, widowed or separated, notification must be given to a child of the donor (if applicable) or otherwise to any relative (i.e. parent, sibling, grandchild, widow/er of child, nephew or niece).

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION REQUIRED TO PREPARE AN ENDURING POWER OF ATTORNEY

* You will need evidence of your identity - in order to comply with the Anti Money Laundering

You will also need to provide your date of birth, your occupation and your marital status.

* Your doctor will have to certify that you are mentally capable of signing the document so you need to give his/her name address and contact number.

* You may choose one or more reliable people as your attorney(s) to act on your behalf in the event of you becoming incapable of looking after your own affairs. You need the names addresses and contact numbers for the selected person(s).

* It is advisable to appoint one or

not do so.

* You are required to give notice of the making of the power to two of your closest relatives (other than an attorney). You need to provide the names, relationship, addresses and contact numbers for the selected person(s). At least one of these people must be your spouse, if living with you. If you are unmarried, widowed or separated, notification must be given to your child (if applicable) or otherwise to any relative (i.e. parent, sibling, grandchild, widow/er of child, nephew or niece).

* If you give your attorney(s) general power in relation to all your property and affairs, they will be able to deal with your

house. If you do not want your attorney(s) to have such wide powers, you can include any restrictions you like. Discuss this with your solicitor.

* Although you need not do so you could name any person you would like the attorney to consult so that the attorney can have regard to that person's views as to your wishes and feelings and as to what would be in your best interests. You will need to let your solicitor know the name address and contact number for any such person so that reference may be made to the person concerned in the document.

* You may also appoint an attorney or attorney(s) to act in the event that the original attorney is unable or unwilling to act. Again you need to provide the names, relationship, addresses and contact numbers for any such person(s)

Mark Felton of Felton McKnight solicitors in Greystones says "An Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA) is a document which enables you to choose who it is you want to look after your personal affairs and your financial affairs



if you become unable to do so at some point in your life. It is designed to ensure that if you can no longer manage your own affairs, whoever you choose to do that for you, can do so in the least complicated manner possible. Your solicitor will guide you through the entire process. Having an EPA in place can make the management of your affairs significantly more

straightforward than they would be if you do not have one in place. It is the most effective way to ensure the person you trust most will have your permission to look after you if the need arises. See www.feltonmcknight.ie for more details.

Kaley Jameson from Benville & Robinson Solicitors (kaley@benvilleroobinson.ie) in Bray says "In

advance of an EPA consultation you will need to have given careful consideration as to whom you would like to act as your Attorney(s) and who you would like to appoint as your Notice Parties. In addition, we will need your date of birth and the name of your current General Practitioner. You can call into us and we will walk you through the entire process."



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ARKLOW C.B.S.



Arklow C.B.S was opened by the Christian Brothers in 1961 to provide a second level education to boys in Arklow in the Edmund Rice Tradition.

High Standards

Since then many things have changed, but the school's teachers remain dedicated to catering for the educational, pastoral, spiritual and emotional needs of each student. Arklow C.B.S. has excellent teaching staff committed to high standards and demanding the same from their students. The school strongly supports and places huge emphasis on the teaching of STEM subjects (Science, Technology and Engineering & Mathematics) to all students.

Pastoral Care

The teaching staff is equally committed to the pastoral care of all students through a system of Class Tutors and Year Heads in co-operation with the Guidance Counsellor and School Management. In addition, specially trained senior students known as Liaison Students are assigned to the incoming First Years.

Liaison Students

Liaison students assist in the organisation and supervision of lunchtime activities for First Years, and are also available to assist students with any problems or issues they may have.

Positive Behaviour

The school promotes a Code of Positive Behaviour, developed with the intention of encouraging students to become self-disciplined and responsible individuals. Built into this is a system of Restorative Practice. Restorative Practice is an alternative to the traditional discipline system. Its aim is to encourage the students to develop mutual respect, empathy, consideration, emotional intelligence, intrinsic motivation and to encourage them to take responsibility. Each student works individually with a trained Restorative Practitioner. Restorative Practice stands beside the traditional discipline system.

Positive Affirmation Committee

The aim of the PAC is to change the focus from discipline and to focus on positive targets. This might be academic or extracurricular achievements or random acts of kindness. This is an attempt to celebrate the excellent behaviour of many students who sometimes go unnoticed. All Junior students have individual merit cards in their homework journals where a teacher can give merits. There is a ladder of rewards then for students when they reach a certain number of merits. This is proving to be a big hit with the students, parents and teachers.

The Curriculum

Arklow C.B.S. provides a broad and diverse range of curriculum subjects ensuring that students can choose and pursue those subjects for which they may have an aptitude and passion for.

Junior Cycle

The Junior Cycle covers a vital period in young people's lives when they encounter significant changes in their educational experiences. This programme seeks to extend and deepen the quality of students' educational experience in terms of knowledge, understanding, skills and competencies and to prepare them for further study at senior cycle. The following subjects are currently taught to the Junior Cycle students - English, Irish, Math's, Business Studies, French, German, Computer Studies, Science, Woodwork, Technical Graphics, Art, Music, History, Geography, S.P.H.E., C.S.P.E., Religion and Physical Education.

Senior Cycle

The aims of Senior Cycle are to develop each student's potential to the full and to equip each student for further education or for the world of work. The senior cycle programme helps to foster in students a sense of self-esteem, self-reliance and innovation so that they



are adequately prepared for active involvement in the social, cultural and economic future of society. The following subjects are available to senior students of Arklow C.B.S. - English, Irish, Maths, History, Geography, Business, Economics, Accountancy, French, German, Construction Studies, Design & Communication Graphics, Music, Art, Computer Studies, L.C.V.P., Religion, Physical Education, Agricultural Science, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. In addition, the non-national students have sat the Leaving Certificate Examinations in their native language.

Science at Leaving Certificate

Arklow C.B.S. sets itself apart from many other schools by being able to offer senior students the option of studying Agricultural Science, Physics, Chemistry and Biology to Higher Level Standard at Leaving Certificate. Yearly, students achieve honours grades in these science subjects. Additionally, many of

these students go on to college and university to take degrees in Engineering, Computers and Science.

Transition Year

Transition year is offered to students who have completed their Junior Certificate. It offers them the opportunity to develop new skills and talents and to consolidate existing interests. Students still study the core subjects of English, Irish and Maths but also get lessons in the subjects they will study at Leaving Certificate Level. Students believe that this can make the process of choosing Leaving Certificate subjects an easier and better informed process. In Transition year students get to participate in a diverse range of workshops and courses, many of which lead to certification. They also participate in three separate weeks of work experience spread throughout the school year; these are valuable weeks where students get to experience the adult world of work and to get an idea of where their future career path may lie.



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ARKLOW C.B.S.

Assessment

All students' academic performance is monitored on a regular basis in the classroom. Students complete a full set of House Exams/Mock Exams at least twice per year and results are reported to parents/guardians after each of these assessments via VS Ware. Students are encouraged to perform to the best of their ability in their study of their various subjects. Many of the students have had their high levels of achievement recognised at both Junior Certificate and Junior Certificate.

An Ghaelbhrtach

Arklow C.B.S. is only one of two schools in Co. Wicklow to be awarded this prestigious award. It is a reward-based scheme which officially recognises schools which are active in the promotion of Irish throughout the school. An Ghaelbhrtach has been well and truly earned and flies proudly outside the school. "We look forward to continuing our work for the Gaelbhrtach in the coming year and all the fun and enjoyment that goes with it."

Rewarding Achievement

Student achievements are fêted in Arklow C.B.S. throughout the school year by means of various award ceremonies. Student successes in the Junior Certificate, Leaving Certificate, Sports and Attendance, are all celebrated as well as awards given for Contribution to School Life, Achievement, Sport, Literacy, Numeracy and Entrepreneurship. The Brendan James Kincaid Memorial Trophy is presented annually by the Kincaid family to the pupil that achieves outstanding Science results in the Leaving Certificate. Additionally, Transition Year students have a Graduation Evening attended by parents and guardians where subject and course awards are presented.

Facilities

Arklow C.B.S. has excellent facilities both sporting wise and academically. The school has an indoor basketball court, two outdoor courts and a football pitch in addition to two well equipped Science Laboratories, two Computer Rooms, two sets of laptops for classroom use, a Woodwork Room, Technical Drawing Room, Art Room, Music Room and a School Library - 'The Kincaid Library'. Lockers are provided to students so that their books etc. can be safely stored. Arklow C.B.S. also has a dedicated resource room where students on the Autistic Spectrum or those with a Special Educational Need can avail of extra supports. A school canteen operates at mid-morning break and at lunchtime where students can either eat the food they have brought from home or purchase hot or cold food and snacks at a low cost.

Breakfast Club

Every morning before school hungry students can avail of a free breakfast of tea/hot chocolate and toast from the school canteen. This is a great way to relax and socialise before the school day begins!

Extra-Curricular Activities

There is a wide range of extracurricular activities on offer at lunch time or after school. Activities include Athletics & Cross Country running, Gaelic Football, Soccer, Rugby, Hurling, Basketball, Golf Díospóireachtaí, Ciorcal Cainte, Homework club, Film club, Library Club and Computer Club.

Gaisce

This year Arklow C.B.S. will again be participating in the Gaisce President's Award. This is an extremely prestigious award scheme and many students in the past have been highly successful here.

After School Study

The after school study facility is provided by the school for the exam year students in particular and provides a quiet, supervised environment for students to study in.

Arklow Credit Union

Every Tuesday Arklow Credit Union comes to the school during lunch break. Here students can open a school credit union account and save and deposit money regularly. This encourages students to get into good savings habits early in their life.

Parents Council

Arklow C.B.S. has a very active Parents Council and all parents are encouraged to become involved in it. The Parents Council provide invaluable assistance to the school in many different ways, including reviewing school policies, catering for after school events and fundraising. Meetings are held regularly throughout the school year, details of which are given to students.

Student Council

Our Student Council at Arklow C.B.S. is proactive in giving a voice to the entire student body, thereby creating a happy and healthy school environment. Through this forum, elected class representatives air their opinions and concerns regarding all matters relating to school and student needs.

Head & Vice Head Boy

This year the Head Boy is Oran walker and the vice head boy is Evan Copeland. They were elected by their peers at the start of the school year and will act as role models for the rest of the school community.

iClassoms

This is an app which parents can download onto their phone from iTunes or google play. It contains



The Liaison students at Arklow C.B.S.

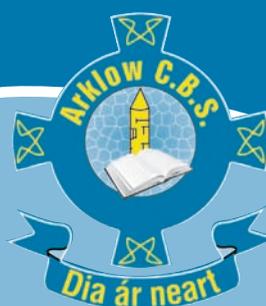
all the up to the minute school news and school calendar. Parents can also communicate with the school via the app.

Open Night

Arklow C.B.S. look forward to welcoming parents/guardians of prospective students to the annual open night on Thursday - an informative and fun-filled evening is guaranteed.

Facebook

Find Arklow C.B.S. on Facebook - search for Arklow C.B.S. Keep up to date on everything going on in school!



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Pictured is the Kilcoole team that took part in the opening 5th and 6th class blitz of the Cumann na mBunscol GAA calendar at Bray Emmets GAA club grounds. In total, 23 teams from around Wicklow took part. There was great display of skills on show with examples of excellent shooting, high-fielding and great teamwork. The next girls' football participation blitz will be on 17th October for 3rd and 4th class.

Wicklow angling clubs awarded funding

Two angling initiatives in Wicklow have been awarded funding through Inland Fisheries Ireland's Sponsorship Programme for 2019. Sean Canney TD, Minister with responsibility for inland fisheries, welcomed funding for 87 angling events and initiatives across the country during the year as part of the programme which supports novice anglers and angling tourism to the tune of €30,000.

Angling clubs and federations applied to the programme, which is a funding mechanism of the National Strategy for Angling Development, for support in hosting angling competitions, conservation events and novice coaching programmes. In Wicklow, funding was granted to the Wicklow Bay Sea Angling Club for a 'Novice/New Angler Introduction to Boat Angling' programme. The Irish Federation of Sea Angling's 'Youth Initiative Day' will be held in Wicklow. Minister Canney said: "We hope that an additional 600 novice anglers will try the sport and over 1,500 experienced anglers will take part in competitions as a direct result of this Sponsorship Programme. Inland Fisheries Ireland has delivered financial support which will allow us to recruit new anglers and support initiatives which attract domestic and overseas angling tourism to rural communities." Dr Ciaran Byrne, CEO of Inland Fisheries Ireland said: "This is our sixth year in a row of providing €30,000 per year in grants to help those who are partaking in angling for the first time and to support the angling community in promoting our wonderful angling product. The Sponsorship Programme is helping us realise some of the objectives of the National Strategy for Angling Development which aims to make angling accessible and attractive through information, infrastructure and support."

Wicklow Racing News

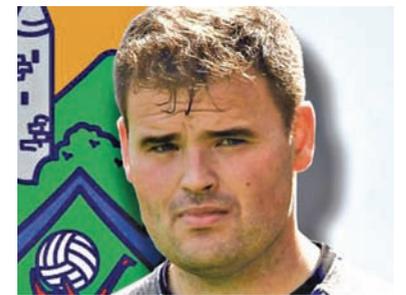
Fran Flood made a welcome return to the winners' enclosure when 13/2 shot Wake Up Early landed the 2m6f handicap chase at Galway on the evening of Monday September 16th.

Ridden by Darragh O'Keeffe, the JP McManus-owned five-year-old got the better of the front-running He Rock's to give Flood his first winners in January of last year. The Grangecon trainer said: "It was great that he won as I was doubting that he would work out. His early form over hurdles and fences was poor enough and I don't think it was an extra special race, but it was great to come out of the right side of it. It's great to have a winner as I haven't had one in a long time and thanks to JP for supporting me, he has one other horse with me. It is hard to find good ones, but we'll keep trying."

Glenealy trainer Peter Croke was among the winners at the final meeting of the year at Ballinrobe on Friday September 20th where Humps And Bumps took the 2m6f handicap hurdle. The 9/1 chance was a first winner on the racecourse for amateur rider Cian Cullinan from Wexford and she scored in the colours of her owner/breeder Maurice Sheehy. Sean Flanagan was an early winner at the meeting where Harvest Bow easily justified strong favouritism in the three-year-old maiden hurdle. Trained by Noel Meade, the 11/10 favourite went to the front after the second last hurdle and skipped clear to win by 12 lengths.

New Wicklow senior football manager appointed

Davy Burke has been appointed the new Wicklow senior football manager, taking over from John Evans who stepped down earlier this season.



Davy Burke, new manager of the Wicklow senior football team. Pic: Wicklow GAA.

31-year-old Confey man Burke helped Kildare achieve All Ireland Under 20 glory in 2018 and is currently involved with Sarsfields club in Kildare. It is thought that Burke had expressed interest in managing Kildare but that role has now gone to Jack O'Connor. Burke now becomes the youngest inter county manager in the country and will serve a three-year term.

Speaking after the meeting last week Wicklow GAA said "We are delighted to announce that Davy Burke has been ratified as the new senior football manager on a three year term at tonight's County Board meeting."

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A hive of activity at the 3rd annual Ashford Honey Festival

The 3rd Annual Honey Festival was held at Ashford Heritage Centre on Saturday 21st September. The band played all day as nearly 2,000 visitors strolled among the grounds and marquees full of local honey, produce, crafts, and the children's face painting and storytelling corner.



Els and Colm Penston at the Honey Festival in Ashford

Michelle O'Connor, Chairman of Ashford & District Beekeepers Association was thrilled with the turnout. "Months of preparation go into making our Honey Festival a truly unique community event. We want it to be inclusive so that families can enjoy a day out in a relaxed, organic way. Whilst the honey harvest and Beekeepers hut is an integral part of the Festival, our lovely stalls with local, organic produce, crafts and children's entertainment add a real sense of festive fun. This year the entries to a Poetry competition 'A World without Bees' from 5th and 6th classes highlighted just how engaged the younger

generation are in the whole topic of diversity and how bees play such an important part in this. Overall there was a real sense of enjoyment on Saturday - a happy day to end the summer in Ashford!"

The Festival was officially opened by Minister Andrew Doyle followed by biologist Eanna Ni Lamhna who gave a fascinating talk on just how bees see the world of plants. The poetry was judged by Wicklow poet Rosy Wilson and artist James Hanley chose the winners for the Art competition.



Ellemarie Fanning and Aisling Dowling are pictured at the Honey Festival in Ashford

Jurassic Park short film secretly shot at Powerscourt Estate

The Dinosaurs are coming, and this time, it's to Powerscourt Estate. Film Director Colin Trevorrow has revealed that a secret Jurassic World short film was shot at the beautiful estate in Enniskerry last year.

In an interview with Collider, Trevorrow opened up about the project for the first time: "We shot it in Ireland last winter. They have a grove of redwood trees that look exactly like the national parks in Northern California. I honestly never thought we'd make it this far without getting found out. The Irish can keep a secret!"

The Redwood Trees at Powerscourt Estate line the long walkways of its ornate Gardens and frame the views surrounding its towering Waterfall. These evergreen skyscrapers provide the perfect playground for Jurassic Park's roaming dinosaurs, as some of the oldest living things in existence. The growing conditions for Redwoods in Ireland are perfect, and trees can live for 1,000 years, or more. Powerscourt boasts many champion trees, including a Winter's Bark tree, which is the tallest known example on the planet.

Powerscourt has long piqued the interest of movie-makers, since Laurence Olivier filmed Henry IV there in 1944. With its close proximity to Dublin, intricate gardens and wild, dramatic scenery, it's easy to see the attraction.

"No one's ever shot a Jurassic movie in Ireland, the crew was fired up. The cast was fully committed to making 8 minutes that could stand alongside the movies," said Trevorrow who directed and co-wrote smash-hit Jurassic World and co-wrote the sequel Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom.

In the short, dinosaurs live in the wild now, with humans and dinosaurs battling to co-exist. The film features a family on a camping trip whose visit is interrupted

by a large herbivore trundling past their caravan, and a battle ensues. Featuring Selma and Moonlight actor Andre Holland and End of Watch's Natalie Martinez, the short was completed in five days with a small crew.

"We had two child actors, a giant animatronic dinosaur and a baby. It shouldn't have worked, but it did", Trevorrow joked.

Speaking about the best-kept secret in County Wicklow, Managing Director of Powerscourt Estate Sarah Slazenger said: "We are thrilled that the prestigious Jurassic Park movie series chose Powerscourt and Ireland as the location for their latest release. The spectacular scenery and abundance of wildlife makes it the perfect backdrop for this science fiction adventure movie. We look forward to welcoming visitors from around the world to admire our spectacular redwood trees at Powerscourt Gardens and Waterfall."

Battle at Big Rock is available to watch online through YouTube and has already garnered 3.8 million views worldwide.



A T-Rex from Jurassic Park. Photo by Christian De Grandmaison

Rare blue lobster found off Wicklow coast

An incredibly rare blue lobster was caught off the coast of County Wicklow last week. The crustacean ended up at Nick's Fish wholesalers in County Meath along with 60 other fresh lobsters.

Staff nicknamed it Betty Blue and informed the Irish Sea Fisheries Protection Authorities in Co Louth, who released her back into the sea. It is thought to be one of only a small handful of such lobsters ever found in the Irish sea.

The reason for Betty Blue's extraordinary colour is not known - it is thought it may be the result of a genetic mutation causing the animal to produce an excessive amount of protein, resulting in the blue colour. Lobsters are actually a brown grey colour in the wild, only turning pink when they're cooked.

Before being released back into the wild, staff took a nick from her tail, marking her as a 'v notch lobster'. This shows other fishermen that the lobster is protected and must not be taken from the sea. There are heavy fines for anybody who removes a v notch lobster.



Betty Blue, the rare blue lobster caught off the coast of Wicklow. Pic: Nick's Fish.

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Greystones resident Ger Devin (pictured far right) was one of six swimmers who completed a relay swim from Holyhead to the Forty Foot in Dublin to raise funds for The Gavin Glynn Foundation which helps children who are seriously ill. They departed with the best wishes of Mayor Alan Williams, Mayor of Holyhead, and successfully arrived in the 40 Foot in Sandycove on Thursday, 19th September. The journey was over 100km and took them almost three days.

Wicklow local named on Teachers Inspire shortlist

Anne Savage, a local of Ballinaclesh, has been named on the shortlist for the inaugural Teachers Inspire Ireland initiative.

The initiative, which is focused on highlighting the enormous contribution made by teachers in Irish society, was launched by Dublin City University (DCU) earlier this year, with the support of businessman and philanthropist Dermot Desmond.

Over May and June, DCU called for members of the public to share their personal stories of how a teacher transformed their lives and / or their community. Twenty shortlisted teachers - five from each province - have been shortlisted from over 400 entries received from every corner of Ireland. None of the teachers knew they were nominated in advance.

Anne Savage recently retired as principal of Scoil Chaoimhín Naofa, Glendalough. Her nomination was a combined effort, featuring video testimonials from current and former students Harry Conroy, James Kelly, Clark Kelly and Amelia Kelly; parent Elaine Conroy; Anne's nephew, Denis Savage; and her Scoil Chaoimhín Naofa colleagues Siobhán Parsons and Elaine O'Brien.

Announcing the shortlist at DCU, Professor Brian MacCraith, President of DCU, said: "The entries submitted to Teachers Inspire Ireland demonstrate just how significant a role teachers play in Irish life.



Anne Savage (right) and Elaine O'Brien

"We received stories about teachers dealing in an inspirational way with major societal challenges. We received stories of teachers who have played - and continue to play - a key part in helping individuals and whole communities adapt to change. "The nominations highlighted teachers dealing with issues such as homelessness, mental health, immigration, unplanned pregnancies, gender identity support, community regeneration, and climate change. They were submitted by schoolchildren, parents, and people whose school-days are long behind them but who remember their teachers with great fondness and gratitude.

"What is abundantly clear from the nominations received is the extent to which so many teachers go above and beyond their 'job description'. It was extraordinarily difficult to select a shortlist of 20 from all the amazing stories we received. However, the 20 teachers being celebrated today have had truly lasting and transformative impacts on the lives of their students and on their wider communities."

Entries to Teachers Inspire were reviewed by a panel chaired by former President of Ireland Mary McAleese. A Teachers Inspire Ireland gala event will take place at The Helix, DCU, on Friday, 4th October, at which four of the shortlisted teachers - one from each province - will receive the inaugural Teachers Inspire Ireland Desmond Awards.

CO WICKLOW PPN TRAINING FAIR FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

Last year Co Wicklow Public Participation Network (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. This year's fair took place on Saturday 21st September in the Brockagh Centre and St Kevin's National School in Laragh.

Workshops this year included: Funding your group; Getting the most out of Social Media; Charitable Status & the Governance Code facilitated by the Charities Regulators office; Running effective meetings; Mental health & wellbeing in the community; GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation); Good governance - where to start; Health & Safety for your group; and Attracting

Volunteers. The spotlight on a PPN member group showcased 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 was also included. Workshops booked out so quickly that two of the most popular workshops were repeated in the afternoon.

There was lots of information stands from organisations that support community groups and volunteers including community group insurers, and community group funders, as well as the community groups themselves. Our local community cafés provided some of the food for the lunch.

Helen Howes, Resource Worker for Co Wicklow PPN said "This was a great day for

learning, networking and peer support. The energy in the centre was wonderful and the feedback we have had has been phenomenal. Co Wicklow PPN is very grateful to everyone who came along on the day including participants, trainers, and exhibitors. We are especially grateful to Pauline and her great team in the Brockagh Centre and to St Kevin's School for providing the extra space we needed when bookings exceeded our initial capacity. The whole event, from organisation to the day itself portrayed community work at its very best".

Wicklow poet among Trócaire award winners

Cliona O'Connell from Wicklow was one of the winners in the annual Trócaire poetry competition this year. Cliona was a runner up winner in the 'Published poets' category with her poem 'Genealogy'.

The 2019 competition prize winners gathered in Dublin recently to receive their awards. Trócaire's annual poetry competition, in association with Poetry Ireland, uses the arts to raise awareness about the leading global justice issues of our time. The winners of this year's competition took part in a showcase event in Poetry Ireland's centre in Dublin on Culture Night. The event also included the launch of an anthology of fifty of the best poems

from the eight years of the competition. President Michael D. Higgins said, "The Trócaire/Poetry Ireland competition is an important event in Ireland's literary calendar bringing together the voices of new and emerging poets, including some as young as eight years old, with those of established and distinguished writers. That is such an imaginative challenge and I am delighted to know that many thousands of poets

have responded since the inception of the Trócaire/Poetry Ireland competition in 2012."

This year the competition explored the theme 'Land is Life'. Poets were encouraged to explore a local to global perspective, and reflect on Ireland's own history of hunger and migration.

The winners - from young primary school students to published adult poets - tackled the theme with creativity and poignancy. Winning

poems exploring themes related to migration, conflict, climate change and mankind's connection to land.

Patricia Groves from Trócaire said, "The standard of this year's competition entries was incredibly high. We would like to congratulate all this year's winners and runners-up, and thank everyone who entered."

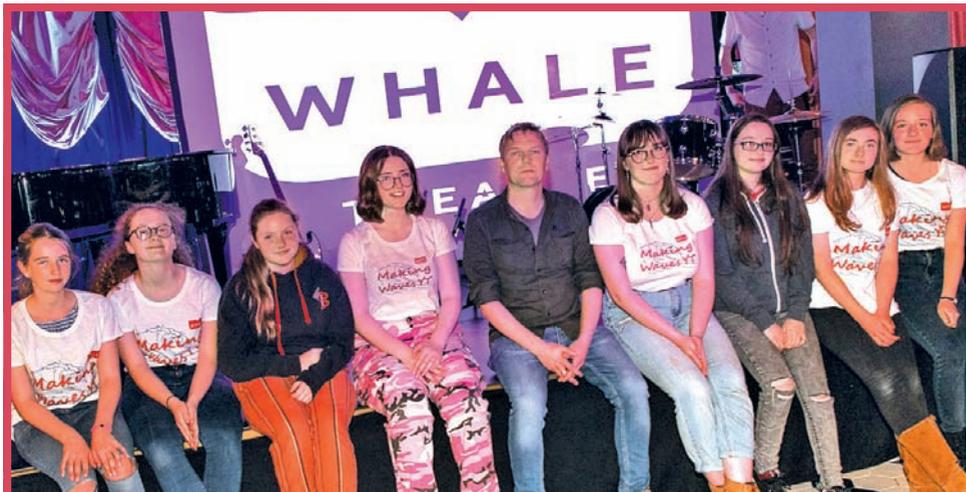
The competition is open to young people, children and adults alike, at all stages in their writing careers. There are six categories in the competition: two for adults and four for children and teens: published and non-published adult poets; first level junior and senior cycle students; and second-level junior and senior cycle students.

This year's panel of judges included published author and poet Geraldine Mitchell, who was the overall winner of our very first poetry competition in 2012, together with Aidan Clifford, formerly of CDETB's Curriculum Development Unit, and Trócaire's Patricia Groves.

Each year, the winning poems are published in booklet form and presented to the winners at the awards ceremony. The booklets are also distributed at events throughout the year, including poetry readings, Culture Night, literary festivals and schools workshops, ensuring a wide readership.



Cliona O'Connell from Wicklow was a runner up winner in the Published poets category with her poem 'Genealogy'. Photo : Garry Walsh



Celebrating Culture Night at Whale Theatre in Greystones were members of Making Waves Youth Theatre before their youth drama workshop

Howie The Rookie at Whale Theatre

Stagemad Theatre Company bring a startlingly beautiful version of "Howie The Rookie" by Mark O'Rowe to Whale Theatre in Greystones. This acclaimed piece seems written for its new star, Fintan Kelly.

O'Rowe's hilarious, pimp-rollin', blood-soaked text has Shakespeare's interiority, Marlowe's viciousness and a cowboy's jangling gait; it's got Joyce's sense of place, Faulkner's sense of language and even a sprinkling of murderously timed fart jokes.

The production features Fintan Kelly who was seen in season 8 of Game Of Thrones. The play is a diptych that follows Howie (Kelly) on a night out cruising for vengeance, then the Rookie (bruises an all) as Howie's victim, mate and witness. Andrew Dunphy's subtle lighting design gives the actor a clean stage in front of him, and the rest of the physical production is just Kelly controlling the stage.

The Howie Lee is a hooligan, good with his fists, bad with the ladies. Without preamble, he vaults into a story about crossing a field and spying a friend burning a mattress. Soon this friend draws him into an unlikely vendetta against the man, The Rookie Lee, who must have infested that mattress with scabies. Mark O'Rowe's writing is lyrical and dirty and riotously imaginative. Listen closely and you will hear Joyce in the frequent neologisms - skullduggerous, popsock, dollyness. Hints of his contemporaries Martin McDonagh in the wild, almost farcical violence, and Conor McPherson in the stealthy emphasis on moral choice and responsibility, as when The Rookie Lee worries over his fate. Mark O'Rowe's language is distinct - in its ribaldry, its understatement, its metaphors and, especially, its exuberant, muscular descriptions of impossible battles. A night of pure, epic theatre is in store. Directed by James Power.

We Are Stagemad Theatre Company hail from Waterford, Ireland. Founded in May 2005, their aim is the cultivation of theatre, supporting new local, national and international writing, and to encourage public appreciation of the Arts. Since its formation Stagemad has established itself as Waterford's, and one of Ireland's most progressive Theatre Company. They Develop, Create, Collaborate. Stagemad are constantly on the lookout for new writing. They love new writing.

See it at Whale Theatre on Thursday 10th October at 8pm (Doors 7pm). Tickets €15

Wicklow artists to exhibit at watercolours show

Arklow artist Pauline Merry and Calary artist Grainne Cuffe are exhibiting at the 165th exhibition of the Water Colour Society of Ireland, Ireland's largest watercolours show, which is to take place at The Gallery, Farmleigh House, Phoenix Park, Dublin, opening last day September and running for two weeks.

This annual exhibition, the largest watercolours event and one of the biggest national group art shows in Ireland, features some very fine watercolours by around 120 leading contemporary Irish artists from throughout Ireland and overseas, including RHA and RUA artists, who are also members of the Society.

The large amount of space will increase exhibits by about one third, as it enables the Society to offer its member artists the facility of showing up to three works each. There will be about 300 paintings in watercolour, gouache and pastels, plus drawings and limited edition signed prints, on sale to the public.

This annual exhibition, the largest watercolours event and one of the biggest national group art shows in Ireland, features some very fine watercolours by around 120 leading contemporary Irish artists from throughout Ireland and

overseas, including RHA and RUA artists, who are also members of the Society.

It offers a broad choice of traditional and contemporary watercolour art. Strong diversity is created by each artist showing one or more works from selected submissions with a wide variety of subjects and styles on offer. Landscapes, seascapes, still life, animal and life studies, as well as botanical, floral, architectural and figure work, all abound from representational through to abstract treatments. Prices will be largely around €350 - €850, although there will be less and more expensive works.

The Water Colour Society of Ireland's annual exhibition was held for nearly two decades in south county Dublin at the former Dun Laoghaire Town Hall gallery. Its new venue at Farmleigh House reflects the long and prestigious tradition enjoyed also by the Society and is prov-

ing to be a hugely successful partnership for both parties. An illustrious body that has included some of the finest Irish water colourists and many eminent artists over the years, the Water Colour Society of Ireland was founded as far back as 1870.



'Points of Blue', a floral study in watercolour by artist Grainne Cuffe of Calary, is one of the works on show at the Water Colour Society of Ireland's 165th Annual Exhibition, open to the public at The Gallery, Farmleigh House, Phoenix Park, Dublin, Monday 30th September - Sunday 13th October.

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Ireland's first Glampotel is situated in Redcross

At last week's opening of Ireland's first Glampotel located in Redcross, Minister Andrew Doyle spoke of the commitment, drive and innovation which has led to the development of a successful campsite and caravan park and which now boasts Ireland's first luxury Glampotel and has praised all involved at the River Valley Holiday Park to have achieved this remarkable accomplishment.

"The accommodation which is described as a crossover between a boutique hotel and luxury glamping comprises of 16 units to suit 4-5 people per unit. It will open all year round and will hugely complement the other offerings in the village of Redcross where pre-

viously there was a shortage of accommodation options.

"Situated in the beautiful Wicklow countryside, the Holiday Park has provided great amenities for families and has included quite a unique variety of accommodation options such as glamping tree-houses, Kukoo huts, Maxilodges and Microlodges all of which are comfortable and some of which are fully Insulated. This latest development promises a more luxurious stay for those who prefer more comfort.

"I'm delighted when visiting this area to see the gradual rejuvenation and innovative ideas by locals contributing to the expansion and development of tourism and holiday options. Given its proximity to Brittas Bay, Kilmacurragh, Wicklow Town and Arklow, as well as the village of Redcross itself, there is plenty to entertain all year round and I wish the best of success to the hard-working and enthusiastic team at River Valley."



Minister Andrew Doyle opens Ireland's First 'Glampotel' in Redcross

Prepare your business for a 'no-deal' Brexit

If you are in business, no matter the sector, you need to be prepared for Brexit.

There are many excellent online resources. However, attending a workshop, seminar or mentoring session which can address the unique circumstances of individual businesses has many advantages.

Local Enterprise Office Wicklow has scheduled a number of events throughout October to help businesses take the necessary steps to prepare for a no deal scenario.

The Prepare Your Business for Customs Workshop on the October 9th in Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew, will enable companies to understand both Revenue rules in Ireland and HMRC rules in the UK and will also cover the post Brexit simplifications being introduced by both Authorities and how to apply for these. A **Brexit Essentials Seminar** on the October 25th, in the Parkview Hotel, NewtownmountKennedy will cover not only customs implications but also the multitude of other issues Brexit will raise for businesses. The Local Enterprise Office in Wicklow can also facilitate a confidential, one-to-one mentor session where you will be able to meet with a Brexit advisor.

Attendance at all Brexit support events are free, however places should be reserved by booking on the Local Enterprise Office website on www.localenterprise.ie/Wicklow/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/ where you will also find additional information. In advance of the workshops and seminars it is a useful exercise for any business to complete the Brexit Scorecard and read through the Brexit Preparedness Checklists which will help assess what risks your business faces with respect to customs, other controls, supply chain, product certification, cashflow and currency and how to develop a plan to maintain and grow in the UK market. Both resources can be found at www.localenterprise.ie.

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Irish Rail commit to station accessibility

A number of weeks ago, Minister Simon Harris called on Irish Rail to take urgent action to upgrade the lift facilities at their train stations in order to improve accessibility, due to an increase in the number of elevators being out of order.

Speaking on the issue, Minister Harris said "I felt I had to take immediate action and contact Irish Rail as I heard so many reports of people with disabilities and parents with buggies being stranded at stations along the rail line. I am pleased that Irish Rail have now responded to my urgent request for action by outlining what action they are undertaking to improve elevator reliability."

In a response I received this week, they advised that: 'Iarnród

Éireann is currently undertaking a programme of preventative lift maintenance in stations where we have experienced issues with recurring faults. We work with our lift maintenance contractor to ensure that lifts re-enter service as quickly as possible. In most instances this will happen same day or within 24 hours. However, where specific part replacement or major works / repairs are required, it can take longer'."

Minsiter Harris com-

mented further: "Providing accessible services is absolutely vital for our commuters and public transport users and I will continue to push for better services. Irish Rail has confirmed to me also that there will be a more significant programme of investment in lift replacement undertaken, which will see new and more durable units installed."

"I have asked Irish

Rail to improve communication with passengers in resolving issues such as accessibility so that people can make alternative arrangements in advance where needs be." Minister Harris continued.

Minister Harris has asked that constituents continue to let him know if they notice lifts out of action and he will continue to report all of their concerns to Irish Rail.



Seamus Sinnott at his farm in Crehelp, Dunlavin, with the Massey Ferguson 5710 which he won in the Bothar Draw at the National Ploughing Championships in Carlow.

PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplandesign.com) Seeks planning permission for side and front extension to dwelling over two floors, and associated works at Mullinaveigue, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow for E. and M. Doyle. The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplandesign.com) Seeks planning permission for retention of one bedroom self contained unit ancillary to existing house and stable yard and retention of building consisting of three sheds, proposed new waste water treatment system to EPA standards in lieu of existing septic tank, and associated works at Ballyknockan House, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow for B. and B. Doyle. The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

William Doyle intend to apply for permission for construction of an additional 6 detached dwellings to development granted under planning ref 19/27, connection to all services, new road and footpath to proposed dwellings and associate works at Toghher Beg, Roundwood, 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

Noel Prendergast seeks Planning Permission to demolish existing sheds and construct a Two Storey Dwelling and a Single Storey Garage with a new site specific treatment unit and percolation area replacing an existing septic tank and soak pit, a new site entrance and all associated site works at Newcastle Middle, Newcastle, County Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of the planning authority 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 in to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, Colin and Fiona Bartlett, seek planning permission for (1) demolition of the existing garage structure, (2) the construction of a two-storey extension to the side and (3) a single storey extension to the rear of the existing dwelling at 76 Applewood Heights, Greystones, Co. Wicklow, A63 XN90. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplandesign.com) Seeks planning permission for a dwelling, waste water treatment system to EPA standards, garage, revised entrance and associated site works at Annacarter, Mullinaveigue, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow for C. McMullen. 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

Noel Heatley and Chris Dunne seek a planning permission for the demolition of an existing two storey dwelling and the construction of 2 No. detached dwellings together with all required foul/surface water services connections and site developments works, at No. 16 Monkton Row, Wicklow Town, Co Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

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

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