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Tuesday 15th October 2019

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WICKLOW SAYS NO TO 5G

Wicklow County Council has passed a motion opposing the rollout of 5G network technology in the county. The motion, proposed by Cllr Tom Fortune and seconded by Cllr Mary Kavanagh, passed by 17 votes to 8.

5G is fifth-generation cellular technology, promising speeds up to 1,000 times faster than 4G. The massive jump in technology has seen people expressing health and environmental concerns. A local petition asking for the motion to be adopted gained 1400 signatures, and recent months have seen 5G 'public awareness days' take place in Greystones and Wicklow Town.

The motion states that "Wicklow County Council has a social responsibility to serve, inform and protect the public and the environment from exposure to harm, and therefore it

opposes the rollout of unregulated 5G in the county of Wicklow based on the 'precautionary principle' pending the enactment by Dail Eireann of protective legislation".

It was also agreed that the Council's Environmental SPC would investigate the matter and report back to the council.

Speaking about the motion, Cllr Fortune said similar motions have already been passed by the Local Authorities in Clare, Roscommon, Sligo and Leitrim.

Cllr Fortune said "I want to make it clear that I support the

Government's National Broadband Plan to build fibre broadband. In fact, I believe the Government's resources should be confined to this service and not to the unregulated and potentially unsafe rollout of 5G."

Cllr Fortune cited the lack of research into the biological effects of the 5G spectrum of radiation and the potential carbon footprint as two of the main reasons for halting the rollout.

"All that is being asked here is that we stop and we talk and we check this out before we race ahead with this rollout of 5G", he said. "In August there were 134,000 signatories



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from doctors and environmental organisations and citizens from 198 countries who called for a halt for 5G. There are lots of people with expertise who have spoken very seriously about it. This is very important, I believe more so for our children than ourselves."

Seconding the motion, Cllr Kavanagh said "As councillors we have a duty of care to the citizens of the county, we also have a duty to protect the environment. 5G is a huge escalation of traditional cellular technology. It uses more power through higher speeds and bandwidths. Traditional 1G to 4G uses between 1ghz and 5ghz frequencies, 5G will use between 10-300ghz. 5G signals are short and can only travel short distances without boosters so transmitters which boost signals will be placed between 100

and 300 metre intervals.

"The higher number of radiation levels means people living in towns and cities will be constantly bombarded with radiofrequency radiation at unprecedented levels. They will have no choice because it will be all around them. We need legislation in the area along with changes in planning legislation to ensure that the number of masts and antennae are kept under control and at safe levels."

Cllr Jennifer Whitmore said she understood why people might be concerned about 5G, however she voted against the motion. She said "When you look at what is available online there is some very significant charges being made against 5G. There is a lot of science being thrown around and a lot of conspiracy

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Avondale Community College Open Evening

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Darcey Hingerty, Ethan Murphy, Elliot Wright, and Levi Griffin-English are pictured at the official opening of the Greystones Harbour Sea Scouts' new den. See story on page 16

Blessing of the Graves

The annual Blessing of the graves takes place in Redford Cemetery on Sunday 3rd November at 3pm. The committee's gate collection takes place that day to help with the upkeep of the cemetery.

Arklow Cancer Support

Celebrate Breast Cancer Awareness Day at Arklow Cancer Support (8, Mary's Road) on Friday 18th October from 10am to 1pm.

Arklow Meals On Wheels

The Annual General Meeting of Arklow Meals on Wheels will take place on Thursday 24th October at 2pm at the Arklow Bay Hotel.

Greystones Active Retirement

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 24th October at 2:30pm at Kilian House Family Centre. All members and intending members are invited. Get all the news on trips and holidays being planned.

Tickets are available for the Annual Christmas Lunch in the Parkview Hotel on Thursday 12th December.

The next coffee morning takes place at Kilian House Family Centre on Friday, 25th October at 10:30am.

Table Quiz in aid of Open Door Centre

The Sugarloaf Lions Club / Open Door table quiz takes place in Greystones Rugby Club on Thursday 7th November at 8pm sharp. A table of 4 costs €40. All are welcome. Please contact Suzanne on 087 6250823 to book a table or to donate a raffle prize. All proceeds go towards activities for adults with physical disabilities in North Wicklow and South County Dublin.

Wicklow Lions Quiz Nights

At a recent meeting the President and committee members of Wicklow and District Lions Club announced that all slots for this coming season's Quiz Nights are now complete. The chairperson Una Breslin would like to thank all the charities which include schools and clubs for their quick response in applying to be part of the 2019/2020 quiz.

Each organisation will be notified when their particular night has been arranged. The quiz gets going on Wednesday November 6th at a venue to be decided. There will be five quiz nights before Christmas and six in the new year.

This is the biggest fundraising event of the year for the local Lions club and up to twenty charities benefit and depend on the finances raised over the winter months by the club.

It is a very entertaining evening and everyone is invited to come along any Wednesday and take part and help to support some very important and worthy charities thanks to the very hard working Lions quiz team.

Wicklow's Got Talent

The Wicklow Hospice Foundation is looking for more acts to register for their Wicklow's Got Talent event on the 23rd of November in the Arklow Bay Hotel. So far, 19 acts registered but they would ideally like 30+ and the first auditions will take place on the 19th of October.

Auditions are being held on the 19th and 26th of October from 2-5pm in the Arklow Bay, €20 per act to register no matter what size the act is. To register go to www.wicklowhospice.ie or ring Sinead on 0870954137.

You can also register on the day. 15 acts will make it through to the live final where Sean and Conor Price will perform!! €15 adult and €5 children.

Aughrim Active Retirement

Line Dancing classes take place on Friday mornings from 11am to 12noon, in the Parish Hall. Good fun to be had by all. There will be a Spa Day on 23rd October, cost €60 for two treatments and lunch.

Bray and Greystones Tidy Towns adjudication to take place

Bray and Greystones will be judged by Tidy Towns adjudicators this month after they were omitted from the competition due to a computer glitch.

Along with four other towns around the country, Bray and Greystones were shocked to see they were not included in the results released two weeks ago. The groups had not received any notification of their omission.

The Department of Community and Rural Affairs said that it appeared as though the issue occurred due to restrictions on the email accounts used by the groups. They confirmed that their IT unit said the submissions did not reach the email servers of the Department and

they believe the issue to be with the senders email.

The Department said that it will now inspect the six towns, being mindful of the fact that inspections are usually carried out during the summer months.

The towns will be adjudicated in the usual way, and receive an adjudication score and report. Any prizes that may be awarded will be honoured although this will not change the existing results of any county or category winners. Neither will it displace any existing medal winners.

New training season at Wicklow Aquanauts

A new training season for new drivers is about to begin at Wicklow Aquanauts, the scuba diving club.

The club was founded in 1984, and has a very comfortable clubhouse and dive centre in Greystones Harbour. Diving is organised locally, nationally, and abroad. Training is carried out by qualified instructors.

Lectures are spread over three sessions. Pool training is three to four sessions. All pool training equipment is supplied by the club.

There are three to five sea snorkels, and up to 100 scuba dives during the year. Diving training officer Albert Kerr says "Our members dive for fun, photography, wrecks, bottle collecting, biology, and monthly surveys of our area which we forward to bio-diversity Ireland. An underwater clean up from the South Beach to the North Beach in Greystones is being organised. For new trainees the cost of membership is €375 from now to the end of next year. This includes affiliation to the Irish Underwater Council (€110), insurance, quarterly magazine, lectures, pool training, sea training, and up to 100 dives. Extra costs include training manual, and log-book (€70), medical, and equipment when sea going, the cost of which can be spread over time."

BirdWatch Wicklow Branch events

October

Saturday 19th: Annual outing to Kilcoole to look for seasonal migrants. Meet at Kilcoole Train Station car-park at 10:00.

November

Tuesday 12th: Wicklow Branch AGM. All Wicklow BirdWatch Ireland members are welcome, proof of membership will be required in the form of the new membership card which is downloadable from the new BirdWatch Ireland website. Glenview Hotel at 19:00.

Tuesday 12th: The 'Who, What, Where, When and Why' of the Garden Bird Survey by Brian Burke from BirdWatch Ireland. Glenview Hotel at 20:00.

Saturday 23rd: Outing to Cahore, Co Wexford to see Whooper Swans and other winter visitors. Meet at Ballinoulart Bay beach car park (South end Cahore) at 10:00 (contact birdwatchwicklow@gmail.com if you need a lift).

December

Tuesday 10th: "The Avonmore River valley: a Black Forest for Ireland?" by Coilin MacLochlainn: a talk about linking up all of the existing semi-natural woodlands in the Avonmore valley, from Luggala south to Shelton Abbey and Arklow. Glenview Hotel at 8pm.



Romi Majlath and Katelyn Keogh are pictured at the Kiltegan Camogie Club 6k and Family walk.

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'Older people shunned again' by Budget

"The Budget was a shocking insult to older people in this country", Independent councillor Joe Behan declared last week. Cllr Behan stated that "older people had been promised some time ago that the Government was committed to raising the State Pension eventually to €270 per week".

He explained: "This was a commitment they gave in the National Pensions Framework which would increase the State Pension to a sum equal 35% of average weekly earnings. In the event, they added absolutely nothing to the State Pension while also increasing carbon tax which disproportionately affects older people with greater need for home heating, etc. The fact that the miserly 2 fuel allowance increase is due to come into force next May is cold comfort given the rise in oil prices generally

"Yet again this shows the continuing disrespect for the contribution of older people to this country during their lifetimes. Older people sacrificed so much to rear families and put food on the table while earning low wages and paying high taxes. Surely they are entitled to an increase in their pension at a time when the economy is booming and the national coffers are overflowing.

A mark of a civilised society is how it treats its oldest citizens and in this regard the Government is failing miserably.

CEO of Alone Sean Moynihan declared it a 'very difficult budget for older people' that has left 'thousands of older people vulnerable' to the impact of Brexit.

In a statement, Mr Moynihan, said "Older people across the country will be frustrated at this year's Budget, which has given very little back to older people experiencing financial, health and housing difficulties, and left them vulnerable to the impact of Brexit.

"We believe that by not increasing vital supports such as the State Pension, the most vulnerable in our society have been left unprotected. If costs increase to necessities like food and transport, older people will be left vulnerable.

"Every year we fail to fund a plan for an ageing society and we see nothing in the Budget to prepare

for this. Since 2011 we have waited for funding for the National Positive Ageing Strategy, and again we have been kept waiting.

"Many older people will miss the increase to the pension which has become regular over the last several Budget announcements.

"In order to deliver financial security to older people, in this Budget we called for the pension to be increased to match 35% of average earnings, which would have required an increase of at least €7-€9 to the state pension this year and in the coming years.

"While ALONE welcomes the modest increase of €2 to the fuel allowance, we had hoped to see the fuel allowance period restored to 32 weeks to ensure that older people are supported when they need it. The increase to the fuel allowance will not sufficiently mitigate against the impact of the carbon tax for older people.

"This has been a very

difficult budget for older people. While no cuts to entitlements or benefits were made, by not increasing provision for the pension, or by not further increasing supports such as the Fuel Allowance, many vulnerable older people will feel the impact in their pockets."

Reacting to last week's Budget, Minister Andrew Doyle said it will protect elderly people in Wicklow thanks to a range of initiatives to reduce the cost of living.

Minister Doyle said "The Living Alone Allowance, which helps our most vulnerable elderly people and people with disabilities, is being increased by €5. The Fuel Allowance is being increased by €2 per week and there will be increases to programmes that help address the causes of fuel poverty.

"There will be increased funding for overnight in-home day respite care. From July, prescription charges will be reduced by 50c for everyone and the Medical Card income thresholds increased by €50 (€150 for a couple). From September the monthly threshold for the

Drug Payment Scheme will be reduced by €10."

Fianna Fáil TD Pat Casey welcomed the announcement of 10 new dementia advisers posts but wants to know when these positions will come on stream.

Deputy Casey said, "While the commitment for 10 advisers is very welcome, delivery on these positions is what matters. There are currently only nine dementia advisers in the country, despite the fact that more than 55,000 people are living with the condition nationally with thousands in Wicklow.

"The current situation - which is essentially a postcode lottery for care - is completely unacceptable. There must be equality of access for all Wicklow families. This Budget allocation will hopefully fill the gaps in the service, however I want details from the Minister as to when these positions will be advertised. I regularly meet with Wicklow families who are living with dementia. They all tell the same story - they quality of care they receive is second to none but getting access can prove very difficult."



Jackie Napier celebrates Bray Emmets' victory over Glenealy in the Senior Hurling Championship Final in Aughrim.

Large haul of cocaine seized in Bray

€130,000 worth of what is thought to be cocaine was seized from a man in Bray last Thursday morning.

As part of an ongoing operation by Gardaí into the sale and supply of controlled substances, Gardaí from Bray and Bray District Drugs Unit observed a male acting suspiciously on the Bray Main Street/Killarney Road area of Bray on Thursday 10th of October.

When approached by Gardaí the man in his 20s fled on foot. Following a brief foot pursuit a man was arrested and a bag was also located from under a parked car. Further examination of the plastic bag found it contained approximately 1.8 kilos of Cocaine (pending analysis) with an estimated street value of €130,000. The man was arrested under Section 15 of the Misuse of Drugs Act and was conveyed to Bray Garda Station where he is currently detained under Section 2 of the Criminal Justice (Drugs Trafficking) Act, 1996.

Consultants vote no confidence in Minister Harris

Wicklow's Minister for Health Simon Harris received a damning blow last weekend when the Irish Hospital Consultant Association unanimously passed a vote of no confidence in him. The IHCA is made up of more than 3000 consultant members.

IHCA President Dr Donal O'Hanlon said that hospital consultants across the public health service no longer have confidence in the Minister as he does not have the "authority, understanding, inclination or experience to deliver timely, quality hospital care for patients" adding that Harris "has become increasingly complacent

and deaf to the suffering of patients across Ireland."

The vote was passed at a meeting of the Council of the IHCA that took place in Dublin.

Dr O'Hanlon stated, "After three years in the office, Minister Harris has presided over an unacceptable increase of 153, 914 patients on the outpatient waiting list

since he became Minister for Health. This amounts to a 37% increase or almost five additional patients every hour. While over the same period, the number of patients treated on trolleys has increased by 36% since May 2016.

"Ensuring all patients can access timely, quality hospital care is a challenge, hospital consultants

working on wards and caring for patients know and live it each day. But it's not an excuse for doing nothing.

"Consultants can no longer support a Minister who is shirking his responsibility, as Minister for Health, to fix our health service and is failing to engage with the IHCA, whose more than 3,000 consultant members, are committed to improving conditions for patients".

Latest figures from the OECD show that Ireland has the lowest number of consultants in the EU with pay inequality for new entrants being cited as one of the main barriers to recruitment.

Wicklow Times spoke to IHCA vice president and consultant rheumatologist Dr Laura Durcan who said that consultants had become increasingly disenfranchised by Minister Harris' inaction and unwillingness to engage.

"Minister Harris has stood us up on a number of occasions," said Dr Durcan. "He will not engage with us. The health service shouldn't be a black hole where money goes to die. What's happening now is we are training doctors that leave

the country and then importing doctors from abroad, taking medical expertise from where it is needed. It doesn't make sense."

Dr Durcan explained the impact made by the appointment of additional consultants, giving the example of her own Rheumatology department in Beaumont Hospital. "We have gone from 2 to 3 and that has reduced the waiting list from 3 and a half years to 6 months, still not ideal but a lot better."

Dr Durcan said that that after 'robust debate' with Wicklow's Fianna Fail spokesperson on health Stephen Donnelly the IHCA had found him to be 'clever and engaged, he weighs in on a problem and looks for a solution.' She said that while they are still open to working with Minister Harris, it has become clear that he does not intend to make a move in their direction. In that case, Dr Durcan said, they will have 'no hope but to hope for a change of government'.

"The Minister appears to dislike the group of people that are responsible for the health of a nation. I'm not sure how we can move forward from there."

WICKLOW SAYS NO TO 5G

(continued from p 1)

theories being thrown into the mix. It's very difficult to figure out what is fact and fiction and I don't think that we are in a position to make that judgment. I think we are going to have to rely on our institutions to do that for us, because we don't have the expertise."

Cllr Rory O'Connor also voted against the motion. He said "There is concern whenever there's a big leap in technology - like we saw with the radio, people were freaking out with tin foil hats thinking that it was going to damage their brain. But 5G has been researched by the World Health Organisation, it's been categorised as being at the same threat level as coffee. If we are going to ban this, I think we should ban coffee at the same time. One thing I will say is we do need to look out for the masts and

we need public consultation about where they go, because we don't want them ruining the beautiful views."

Speaking on the matter, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Frank Curran said "It's the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment's responsibility for the health effects of radiation and I know that the Minister has looked at it and make new regulations for the EPA. ComReg is the statutory body for the regulation of the electronic communication sector and ComReg has commissioned audit reports to confirm that licenses are compliant with their licenses. They are covered by international guidelines for public exposure to electromagnetic fields for non-ionising radiation. It's reviewed by the World Health Organisation."



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Foster carers sought in Wicklow

Tusla Child and Family Agency has launched a new public information campaign to recruit more foster carers, and to dispel the myths around foster care eligibility.

The campaign is Tusla's first national fostering campaign and it aims to dispel misconceptions about who can foster a child, and encourage people from all walks of life to consider providing a loving stable environment for a vulnerable child. Tusla National Fostering Week, which takes place on October 14th-20th is being supported by the Irish Foster Care Association. Tusla National Fostering Week will include a range of public awareness events. A celebration of fostering by a children's art exhibition (foster children and birth children of foster carers art) will take place in Arklow Public Library, Main Street Arklow from Monday the 14th October to Saturday the 19th October.

Speaking about the launch of Tusla National Fostering Week, Chief Executive of Tusla, Bernard Gloster, said: "Tusla National Fostering Week is an opportunity to dispel common misconceptions about foster care. We are looking for foster carers from all walks of life to provide loving, stable environments for children who, due to life experiences can't live at home.

"It only takes one person to change a child's life. I would encourage anyone who feels they can provide a stable and safe family environment for a child to think about fostering and join the 4,254 Tusla

foster carers around the country that open their homes to 5,511 children."

Across Wicklow, 95 foster carers open their home to 147 children. Speaking about the misconceptions around foster care, a local foster carer said "I have fostered children of all ages and different nationalities. I never knew who was going to walk through my door, but it never took long before the smiles came. Fostering gave me the opportunity to stay at home with my own children. Both my daughters enjoyed the experience with foster children and have gone on to study in that field themselves. I have kept in touch with many children I have cared for. It's nice to lend a helping hand.

"Foster carers in Wicklow make a huge contribution to local communities by raising children who take part in schools, sports clubs and other activities. Each child is different and each foster carer is different, so we are seeking all types of foster carers. For example, people who rent, people who own their own home, people who are in couple, or are single, have a disability, or are of a different ethnicity."

People in Wicklow who would like to find out more about fostering can call 1800 226 771, email tusla.fostering@tusla.ie or visit Tusla.ie for more details.



Pictured is Aine Farrell from Bray who was one of the 19 students in Ireland who achieved top marks in her Junior Cert. Aine is a pupil of Coláiste Íosagain and a past pupil of Scoil Chualann.

Brittas Bay biodiversity project information evening

A plan to protect the unique biodiversity of Brittas Bay is under consideration by Wicklow County Council.

As well as being one of the county's most popular beaches, Brittas Bay is a jewel in the crown of Wicklow's biodiversity being an area that is rich in plant, insect and birdlife.

The Dunes at Brittas Bay are part of a complex of coastal habitats that includes Buckrone Dunes, and which are designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

However, the biodiversity of the site suffers from amenity pressures and Wicklow County Council is looking at implementing a programme of actions to facilitate improved management for biodiversity and enhance the conservation status of the site.

This project is being co-ordinated by the Heritage Office of Wicklow County Council in association with Wicklow Municipal District and with funding support from National Parks & Wildlife Service

through the National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Initial works have commenced which focus on trialling mowing plots to inform an appropriate grazing regime. It is also intended to map the invasive sea buckthorn.

A public information event on the programme is being held on Tuesday, 15th October, at 7 pm in Wicklow Town Hall, Market Square. Project ecologist, Alan Lauder, will talk about the work and there will also be details of opportunities to participate in upcoming invasive species mapping workshops.

For further details contact Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer, Wicklow County Council: dburns@wicklowcoco.ie T: 0404 20100.

Motorsport champ nominated for Young Driver of the Year Award

18 year-old Max Hart has been selected as the third nominee for the 2019 Motorsport Ireland Young Racing Driver of the Year for his performances in the month of June.

Hailing from Baltinglass, Hart has elected to compete in the UK this season with Leastone Racing in the British Monoposto 1000 Championship where he has secured numerous podiums, including a brace of wins, which secured him second in the championship on his first full season racing outside Ireland.

In 2018, Max won the Irish Formula Vee Star of Tomorrow Championship, taking eight wins from twelve starts in his first season in the series. It was at the end of that season that he then decided to sample the

Monoposto 1000 class in the UK. In his first race outside Ireland at Brands Hatch, without any testing at the track, Hart finished second. This gave him the encouragement to proceed with this series for 2019 and with the main championship finished, he intends to complete the six round Tiedeman Trophy Championship which takes place over the Autumn and Winter months of this year.

Like many young racers, Max has had to balance his racing with education and he is currently a 6th year student in Scoil



Max Hart

Chonglais in Baltinglass. Away from racing and his studies, Max will continue his fitness and training work as well as working with his family to secure spon-

sorship for 2020. Like any single seater racer, Max would love to reach Formula 1 but understands the barriers that exist in following that path, however carving out a career as a professional driver is definitely his aim.

Max is thankful for the support of his sponsors and family members who have helped out in any way possible over the last few seasons.

Having been selected as the third nominee for the 2019 season, Max is now a contender for the prestigious Motorsport Ireland Young Racing Driver of the Year Award and the historic Sexton Trophy. This award is presented annually and is supported by Sport Ireland and Motorsport Ireland.



Max Hart in his Formula Vee car

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Councillors take a stand against online abuse

A motion was passed at last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council in response to a noted increase in online abuse and personal threats aimed at councillors.

The motion, put forward by Fianna Fail councillor John Mullen, was discussed and agreed on. It states that "Wicklow County Council notes the increasing level of personal abuse and threats being made on social media against Public Representatives. Wicklow County Council asks all public representatives to be leaders in ensuring that bullying, abusive and threatening language is not used online and to ask their supporters to engage in online debate in a respectful manner. Wicklow County Council also asks the Executive to provide support to any representative that is being targeted online and engage with An Garda Síochána to ensure that any illegal behaviour is investigated."

Speaking at the meeting, Cllr Mullen said "social media is used by all of us. It's a way of getting in touch with constituents, but there are frequent issues with people going over the line. We need to nip this in the bud at the start of a new council. We want debate and engage with debate, but let's keep it polite and respect each other."

Speaking to *Wicklow Times* after the meeting, Cllr Mullen said "Its vital to have debate on politics issues and social media presents an important platform for people to engage with public representatives. However there is also a responsibility to engage in respectful debate and indeed criticism and not engage in trolling where individual councillors are targeted. Every councillor needs to lead on this and encourage their supporters to show

respect to get respect. Today (Oct 10th) is mental health awareness day and social media abuse is a large factor in people feeling unacceptable pressure and resulting mental strain. Politics both online and offline belongs to all of us and nobody should feel excluded because they fear an abusive online response."

Agreeing with the motion, Cllr Paul O'Brien observed that "over the last few weeks I have noticed it's gotten worse. Some might say this is what you are signing up for as a councillor, but that doesn't mean it's right. As an elected representative I have every much right to be here as everyone else. We are a democratic country, I respect everyone else's opinions and all I am asking for is the same in return, so I would urge elected members to consider when they are posting things on social media or in the media itself, to remember that they have families, we have families and the officials have families too and to bear that in mind."

Cllr Jennifer Whitmore also welcomed the motion, noting that "over the weekend, there was some anti-immigration leaflets handed out around the Charlesland area in Greystones, and I posted something on it on Facebook and I have literally spent the past day dealing with abuse online. It has now moved to Twitter and I will expect tonight I will be dealing with it on Twitter. I have been called all sorts of names and frankly it's unacceptable, but you can see that level of discourse, not just in online trolls

but how we deal with each other as professionals in the social media sphere. I think that we need to recognise that there are people behind the roles, that we are all individuals and we have families and we are here to do what we believe is best. Rather than knocking everyone down all the time we should be just trying to work together for the people of Wicklow."

Cllr Grace McManus said "We need to be mindful that people are watching us, when we are getting abuse and how we handle it. We have an opportunity to showcase resilience in that regard. I learnt that you have to have red lines so I just delete comments that are abusive. I am happy to debate policy and I don't mind being named if I voted for something and then being tagged and asked why I voted for it, but I won't accept abuse."

Senior Executive Officer Lorraine Gallagher explained that "we have an acceptable use policy in Wicklow County Council. The purpose of the document is to outline the policy for the safe, professional and proper use of Wicklow County Council's computing online and messaging system. The procedure applies to all users of the information systems and any services accessible from those systems by any users from Wicklow County Council. All users of Wicklow County Council's information systems and related services are expected to use these resources in an efficient, effective, ethical moral and lawful manner."



Minister for Education Joe McHugh cuts the ribbon to officially open St. Coen's National School in Rathnew, with principal Miriam Cahill (second from right), Cathaoirleach Irene Winters (far left) Minister Andrew Doyle (far right), and pupils. The school was formed from the amalgamation of St. Joseph's Girls National School and St. Ernan's Boys National School. The new building is located in Merrymeeting.

Another death on the N81

A motorcyclist died following a fatal collision on the N81 on Sunday 6th October. The accident, involving a car and two motorcycles, happened at Poulaphouca.

One motorcyclist was pronounced dead at the scene and the other motorcyclist was injured and taken to Tallaght University Hospital.

Responding to the news, West Wicklow Councillor Edward Timmins, speaking at last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council, said "Recently €1.1 million was spent on resurfacing the N81 north of Blessington and no one in the area, including my fellow councillors, thought it was necessary and no consultation took place with the councillors in relation to the expenditure. There are much more needy spots where that €1.1 million could have been spent, in widening the N81 and making it safer. We feel we are being ignored and treated with contempt as councillors. Nothing is being done."

A segment of the N81, south of Poulaphouca Bridge, 1.8km north of junction with R411, east of Kildare border, was recently named the most dangerous section of road in Co. Wicklow according to research by Gamma Location Intelligence, with 76 road accidents (injury collisions) per 100 million vehicle kilometres.

According to a briefing released by the Kildare National Roads Office, the N81 between Tallaght and Hollywood Cross has up to seven times the national average of head-on collisions and two times the national average of single-vehicle crashes.



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New Mobile Library for Wicklow

A new €230,000 mobile library launched last week by Wicklow County Council will carry over 3,000 items and have a "bounce pad" providing easy internet access to users.

The mobile library service is used regularly by 1,500 people as it visits different parts of rural Wicklow.

Speaking at the launch, the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Irene Winters, said: "The service has an emphasis on social inclusion as it reaches the most remote areas of the county on a regular basis. This element has been utilised by

the Council to highlight services and bring them to an audience that otherwise would have been very difficult to reach."

She added that mobile library membership automatically provides an avenue of access to other services which all 30,000 members of the Wicklow Library Service can avail of. Members are entitled to log on from a home PC or Smart Device to avail of: E-books, down-

loadable audio books, online newspapers from across the world in 30 languages, online language learning, and online business information.

Cllr Winters said that by investing 230,000 in the new mobile library, Wicklow County Council was reinforcing its commitment to its rural public. "It is my wish that, commencing tomorrow, this new vehicle will

serve the rural areas of Wicklow over the next 10 to 15 years as its predecessor has done", she stated.

Mr Frank Curran, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, said it was encouraging, despite the increased use of electronic devices, that the libraries continue to grow in popularity with people borrowing in excess of 600,000 items a year.

The Council, he said, continues to invest in the library service, with new libraries being developed in Wicklow town and in Rathdrum. These two new libraries, along with the new mobile library, represented a capital investment of €6m.

He pointed out that almost 50,000 items are borrowed each year from

the mobile library which has a membership of over 1,500 and annual visits of 23,000 from the public it serves.

"The library of today provides a critical function for citizens of towns, cities and rural areas", he said adding: "Wicklow County Council is well-served with 13 branch libraries through the county; six of which are full-times while seven are either part-time or single staffed."

Cllr Gail Dunne, Chair of the CCSD SPC, said Wicklow County Council's first mobile library took to the road in 2004. It has served the people of Wicklow well over the past 15 years with 400,000 kilometres clocked up.

He said he was particularly pleased that the



Cathaoirleach Irene Winters and Cllr Gail Dunne cut the ribbon to officially open the new mobile library



The new mobile library

new mobile library - supplied by Cahill Truck Bodies of Graiguenamanagh, Co Kilkenny - includes six solar panels which will provide the primary source of energy for the

vehicle's internal lights and electricity. In addition to carrying almost 3,000 items, Cllr Dune pointed out that the vehicle will have the best in modern technology, including a "bounced

pad" providing easy internet access to the public along with an electronic notice board which will be used to showcase and promote Wicklow County Council events and notifications.

Double history event in Baltinglass Library

The West Wicklow Historical Society will be launching on-the-double on the evening of Friday 18th October. Baltinglass Library will be the venue for two events in one. These are the Baltinglass launch of the 'Our Wicklow Women' exhibition and the official launch of the WWHS's 10th Journal.

'Our Wicklow Women' is an exhibition celebrating the achievements or tribulations of thirteen women historically associated with Co. Wicklow. It is an initiative of Deirdre Burns, County Heritage Officer, and Catherine Wright, County Archivist. This free exhibition has been in various locations over the past several months and it will remain in Baltinglass Library for a month after this event.

Four of the subjects included in the exhibition were from the western half of the county - Elizabeth Smith of Baltiboys, her great-granddaughter Dame Ninette de Valois, Eliza Davis of Mullinacuff and Jennie Wyse Power, a native of Baltinglass. Jennie's story was researched and written by another Baltinglass native, Cora Crampton of the WWHS, and she will give a brief

talk on the remarkable Mrs. Wyse Power to launch this leg of the exhibition.

The WWHS has already entered its 40th year and its journal is its most enduring contribution to the heritage of West Wicklow and environs. The first three issues were published in the 1980s. Then there was a hiatus until 2007, when Chris Lawlor and Donal McDonnell revived it. Since then there has been a journal every two years, produced by the same editorial team. The appearance of the 10th Journal is a landmark for the society in advance of its 40th anniversary celebrations in 2020. It is also considerably larger than any of the previous nine editions, with articles on diverse aspects of the past and various locations within the area covered by the WWHS. The price is €15.00 and it will be on sale on the night.

The events on Friday 18th October take place during library opening hours (6.30pm to 8.30pm). The exhibition may be viewed and the journal purchased anytime within those hours but the official proceedings, including Cora Crampton's brief talk, begin at 7pm sharp. All are welcome to attend.

Erasmus students welcomed to Wicklow

Erasmus+ students and teachers from Slovenia, Sweden, Austria and Romania visited Wicklow recently as part of the EU Aquatic Project and were staying with their host families of students from Colaiste Chill Mhantain.

It was an action-packed week from Monday September 23rd to Friday 27th, with events each day. On Monday there was an official welcome for the Erasmus students in to Wicklow's Town Hall by Cathaoirleach Irene

Winters. Earlier in the day the students had a tour of Wicklow Town, taking in the RNLI station and other landmarks. On Tuesday, Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer with Wicklow County Council, hosted a biodiversity talk with the students at The Murrough, showing them

the impact of erosion and conducting a coastal survey of the marine life. The students were kept busy and entertained during the rest of the week with hikes up the Sphinx and Glendalough, a trip to Dublin which included the Viking Spalsh tour and a tour, and kayaking around

Wicklow Harbour and out to Black Castle, and a visit to Wicklow's Historic Gaol. The week concluded with a night of celebration at Wicklow Golf Club, with a meal and music. Cllr Winters presented certificates of participation to all of the students involved in the project.



Colaiste Chill Mhantain students Jack Higgins, Eabha Mooney, Genevieve Codd White, and Sean Brady with Cathaoirleach Irene Winters at the celebration night for Erasmus students in Wicklow Golf Club.



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Services needed for acquired brain injury sufferers

Co. Wicklow is currently severely lacking services for acquired brain injury rehabilitation for adults, according to Acquired Brain Injury Ireland.

For some time ABI Ireland, a provider of community rehabilitation for adults living with and recovering from an acquired brain injury, has been calling for investment to provide case management services in Co. Wicklow, where currently there is no case management service.

Acquired Brain Injury Ireland is currently in need of funding to provide services, as currently they have clients traveling from Wicklow to Dublin to avail of supports.

In a pre-budget submission, the Neurological Alliance of Ireland called for investment in neurology and neurorehabilitation services, as well as urgent action to address funding deficits that threaten the supports provided by neurological charities.

Last year ABI Ireland also made a pre-budget submission highlighting the benefits of case management services: "An acquired brain injury case manager acts as a single point of contact for families and provides a clear pathway to support an individual's transition from acute settings through post-acute and into community rehabilitation services. Research in the UK has shown that case management for complex cases of brain injury has enhanced quality of life for individuals. Additionally, earlier research focused on the northeast of Ireland (Meath, Cavan, Monaghan, Louth) showed acquired brain injury case management services drove net savings for our health service of €3.5m due to: reduced level of support required for individuals, reduced admission to nursing homes and hospitals, and reduced discharge delays from nursing homes and hospitals."

Speaking to *Wicklow Times*, local Bray woman Bernadette Nolan, whose husband Peter has an ABI, said the current situation where Co. Wicklow is without a brain injury case management service is lamentable given the expected increase in stroke numbers in the coming years.

Speaking to the Oireachtas Health Committee in March 2018, Dr Rónán Collins, Clinical Lead, Irish National Stroke Programme stated "The Stroke Alliance for Europe, SAFE, has estimated that in light

of our demography if we do not change the curve of incidence, we probably will experience a 58% increase in stroke numbers over the next ten to 15 years, which will represent a massive challenge for us."

On learning that the new Primary Health Care Centre in Bray would be without an adult speech & language therapy service, Ms Nolan said that "a vulnerable group is being ignored".

"There will be a beautiful new building and facility, but no new supports," Ms McGrath complained. "I believe that people who require rehabilitation for stroke/ brain injury and speech problems are not having their needs met by the HSE in Bray. Waiting 10 years for Slaintecare to come about means that thousands of people will be assigned to further difficulties during their recovery. Time is of the essence during rehabilitation so the Minister for Health should take immediate action to ensure that the new Primary Care Centre has the funding to employ these much needed therapists."

Ms Nolan said that her husband had to wait eight months to see an occupational therapist after being discharged from hospital in January 2018 after a six-month stay due to a stroke. After finding a lack of professional help for her husband locally, Ms Nolan began calling for additional funding for cognitive occupational therapy and speech therapy services for adults with acquired brain injuries, at the new Bray Primary Care Centre.

In a statement to *Wicklow Times*, the HSE stated "The purpose built Primary Care Centre will serve to enhance a collaborative approach to the provision of services. Cognitive assessment is provided as part of a Primary Care occupational therapy assessment, if indicated, for all adults attending this service."

"At present, there is no adult speech and language therapist in Bray Primary Care Services. Primary Care is committed to continuing its efforts in seeking the necessary resources to provide this service. A multi-agency project group continues to work to establish a neuro-rehabilitation pathway across the community, acute and tertiary hospital settings and obtain long-term funding for this service. This project aims to show the benefit of clear clinical pathways for service users with neurological conditions and identified rehabilitation needs."



Hannah Kenny, AnneMarie Doran, Ella Doran, and Amy Monahan are pictured with pet Daisy at the Kiltegan Camogie Club 6k Family walk.

Wicklow has highest childcare costs outside Dublin

Wicklow parents are struggling with the highest childcare costs outside Dublin, paying an average of €204 per week for full-time creche fees.

Stephen Donnelly TD explained "Parents nationally are forking out up to 8 percent more for childcare this year. Here in Wicklow, we're the most expensive place outside the capital to have a child minded full-time. We also have the third highest sessional charge in the country at just over €79. Just down the road we have the highest full-time fees for childcare which is in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown where parents

are charged €251 per week. "Every day parents come into our constituency office asking if there's any way we can help. They have not one, but two, major worries. Firstly, they're being crushed by the prices they've to pay. The second problem is that even when families manage to squeeze out the money to pay for childcare, the next hurdle is finding somewhere that can accept their child. We're

inundated with requests from families in all the main urban areas in Wicklow who're on waiting lists just to get a creche place. I've had parents in Greystones and Kilcoole tell me that the closest childcare they could find is in Blackrock or Dun Laoghaire in South County Dublin. "What I'd like people to know however is that there is hope, no matter how grim the situation looks. When it comes to

cost Fianna Fáil has a Bill that's making its way through the Oireachtas right now that could cut up to 400 a year off their childcare costs. My colleague Anne Rabbitte is behind the Valuation (Amendment) Bill which would make childcare providers exempt from commercial tax rates. If we make sure that creches have more favourable financial conditions, we should see more of them opening in Wicklow."

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Pictured is Nian Mac Cormaic from St. Mary's College, Arklow, in an outfit entitled 'Queen of Roses', at the launch of Junk Kouture 2020. Junk Kouture lays down the gauntlet and challenge the students to create original and innovative outfits from recycled materials and rubbish. Teachers can register their schools to participate now until 6pm November 1st. Students hoping to take part should work on their entry designs from now so they are ready ahead of student registration in January 2020.

Ashford lady nominated for award after losing 5.8 stone

Janet Herman from Ashford is today holding her head high as she celebrates all of her determination paying off, having lost 5st 8lbs since joining her local Unislim class. Due to her incredible success, Janet has made it into the shortlist of only 12 'Unislimmers' from across the country. On October 17th she will take to the catwalk in the annual Unislim Awards in Dublin, where the winner will walk away with €1,000.

The finalists are today being named as Unislim's most inspiring weight loss success stories of the year. Ireland's 'Beauty Guru', media personality and fellow Unislim member Triona McCarthy, alongside Unislim MD Fiona Gratzler will undergo the difficult task of choosing the overall winner from the inspiring group, who have all transformed their lives for the better.

Speaking about her inspiring journey to get to this point, Janet said:

My weight crept up without me noticing, which can happen so easily and going through the menopause didn't help. I was sitting on the couch eating a whole pack of biscuits at night. I am

also an emotional eater and I think that's part of why I gained so much weight. I found it hard to get myself motivated to do anything. I was beginning to cancel plans with friends, isolating myself and feeling more and more depressed.

I really felt embarrassed about my body and my poor dog never got a walk! I had tried other plans and lost some weight but I looked at them as diets and I'd end up back to square one. After four or five years it came to a stage my body was giving out. I was a nightmare to live with. My teenagers were tiptoeing around me with my moods and tears. I was in a negative headspace, I was stuck.

I walked into my first Unislim class on 26th April 2018 and weighed in at 15 stone 11. I nearly fell off the scales. I was in a bit of denial about how much I'd put on. My fab leader Joanne & I set small targets each week, aiming to reduce my BMI a little at a time. That's what worked for me, if I was to tackle a large number it would have been too daunting. Most weeks I had a loss, and I never missed a class even if I felt I had a bad week.

My energy levels have increased since losing the weight, I used to be out of breath just going up the stairs! Six months after I started I went back to my Pilates class again which I love. You can have bad days, the thing

is not to write it off as a bad week. It's so important to go to class, you come away with so much encouragement. My confidence has grown immeasurably. I'm glad to say my dog loves me again!

I couldn't recommend the Balance plan more. It works for all the family and it has to be sustainable for life, which it is. You're not dieting, you're adopting a healthy lifestyle. My husband said Thank God you're going to Unislim. I'm delighted to say I'm back to person I used to be, all thanks to Unislim!

Judging and the award ceremony will take place on Thursday, October 17th, in association with Debenhams. The overall winner will be presented with a cheque for €1,000 by Unislim.

Bray man Gary Finane has also been named as a finalist of the anticipated annual Unislim Awards after losing five stone.

Supporting evening for bereaved parents

Anam Cara Wicklow will host a parent support evening in the Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy at 7.20pm on the 21st October.

When the dust has settled from the summer holidays and back to school rush is over, many bereaved parents find that the reality hits home again. Cara parent support evenings will provide a safe and comfortable space for all bereaved parents to come and remember their child and to listen to other parents speak of their loss and how they are managing on their journey. This event is open to all bereaved parents regardless the age of your child or circum-

stances of their death. Here you can come connect with other bereaved parents over a cup of tea or coffee and just sit and listen or if you chose, speak of your child.

Anam Cara CEO Sharon Vard stressed that this event is open to all bereaved parents "regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death or whether the death was recent or not. Anam Cara gives bereaved mothers and fathers a chance to meet and connect with other bereaved parents in a safe and comfortable setting. Here we can find a level of support and understanding that - even with the best will in the world - it can be difficult for family and friends to offer."

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Janet after

Steely Dan tribute at the Hot Spot

AJA, an eight-piece tribute band to Steely Dan, return to the Hot Spot in Greystones on Saturday 2nd November.

AJA recreates the sounds of one of rock's most legendary and enigmatic bands with stunning precision and energy.

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Pictured are Paddy O'Brien, Nessa Duffy, and Anthony Quinn of the Harbour Trading Company

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Commenting on the 40th Anniversary, Nessa says "George has been delivering gas and

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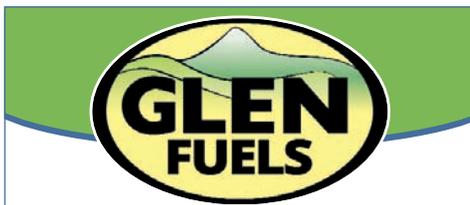
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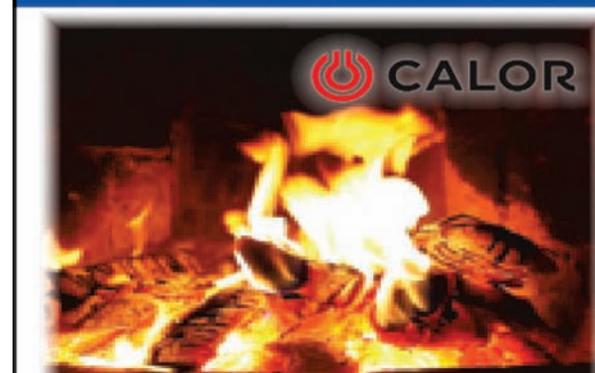
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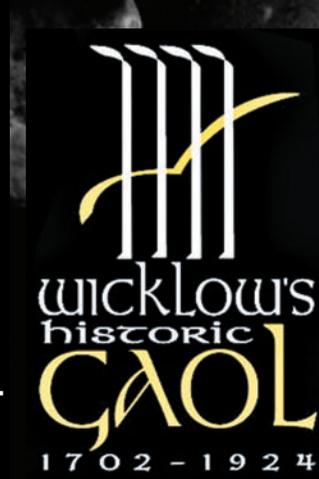
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Eimear O'Connell of Wicklow Enterprise Park presents John Smith of Smith Electrical with the Special Recognition Award at the Wicklow Town & District Chamber Awards in Tinakilly House, Rathnew:

'Major step forward for Slaintecare'

Minister for Health, Simon Harris TD, has said that Budget 2020 is about bringing the Slaintecare health reform programme to life in communities across the country by delivering investment in key strategic supports.

Minister Harris said the Budget would also provide for expanded eligibility including free GP care for children under 8, free dental care for children under 6 and increased income limits for people over 70 to qualify for a full medical card. The cost of medicines will also be reduced in line with previous Budgets and the



Minister Simon Harris

Slaintecare Plan.

"Today, Slaintecare takes a major step forward, building on the work of the past year. The long-term funding commitment in Budget 2020 will see the shift to community care begin to happen in earnest with 1,000 front line community health care staff to be recruited, including therapists, nurses and

other professionals."

Other proposals include: A reduction of 50c in prescription charges from July; Expansion of free GP care to children under 8 and free dental care for under 6's from September; 55 new hospice beds opening in counties Wicklow, Kildare, Mayo, and Waterford; The full roll-out of a HIV PrEP programme; €25 million in disability funding; Investment in the maternity, cancer and dementia strategies, and a new autism plan.

"One million additional home care hours will ensure that we support people to be cared for in their own homes for as long as possible, instead of in hospital or residential care. Alongside this we will begin to pilot a Statutory Home Care Scheme next year so that home care is regarded as a right in the same way as long-term residential care.

"In line with Slaintecare we are continuing to expand eligibility for primary care services and reduce the cost of medicines to families and older people. From September, we will introduce free GP care to children by expanding to children under 8 years of age. We will also introduce free dental care for children under 6.

"In Budget 2020, I have prioritised reform of the health service, investing in our staff and reducing the cost of healthcare for our patients."

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Budget Summary

Cooney Parle Accountants and Registered Auditors in Wicklow have provided the following summary of the 2020 Budget statement made by the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform.

Tax Credits

The maximum Earned Income Tax Credit has increased from €1,350 to €1,600. The Home Carer Tax Credit has increased from €1,500 to €1,600.

Exemption Limits

The exemption limits for persons aged 65 years and over remain unchanged. The exemption limits for single or widowed or a surviving civil partner, 65 years of age and over is €18,000, and for those married or in a civil partnership, (over 65), it's €36,000. These exemption limits increase by €575 for each of the first two dependent children and by €830 for the third and subsequent children.

Universal Social Charge (USC)

There are no changes to USC rates. The current reduced rate of USC for eligible medical card holders will continue to apply for one further year, 2020. The medical card extension for under 70s has been extended for one further year.

SARP, FED & DWT

Special Assignee Relief Programme (SARP) and the cap on eligible earnings has been extended to 31st December 2022. Foreign Earnings Deduction (FED) was extended to 2020 in the Finance Act 2016. The scheme has now been extended to 31st December 2022. The rate of Dividends Withholding Tax (DWT) will increase from 20% to 25%.

Capital Acquisitions Tax (CAT)

The CAT tax-free threshold is increased from €320,000 to €335,000 in cases where the beneficiary is a child. Parents also fall within this threshold where they take an inheritance of an absolute interest from a child. The new threshold applies to gifts and inheritances taken on or after 9th October 2019.

Corporation Tax (CT)

The Minister is reducing the amount of expenditure that can qualify for tax relief for certain categories commercial vehicles. The provision will apply from 1st January 2021. Finance Bill 2019 will make a number of amendments to the Research and Development (R&D) tax credit, introducing several measures to support relevant micro or small companies.

Capital Gains Tax (CGT)

CGT farm restructuring relief is being extended to 31st December 2022.

Anti-Tax Avoidance Directive (ATAD)

The Finance Bill will introduce new anti-hybrid mismatch rules and technical amendments to the Exit Tax rules.

Key Employee Engagement Programme (KEEP)

This relief is being amended to allow companies who operate through group structure to qualify for KEEP. Conditions are being amended to allow for part-time or flexible working arrangements together with movement between companies within the group.

Excise

Tobacco Products Tax (TPT) rates are increased with effect from 9th October 2019. The increase amounts to 50 cent, inclusive of VAT, on a packet of 20 cigarettes. The relief reducing the standard rate of alcohol products tax by 50% on beer produced in microbreweries will now be available to small breweries producing up to 50,000 hectolitres per annum. There will be an introduction of a relief from betting duty and betting intermediary duty up to a limit of €50,000 per calendar year. This relief only applies to single undertakings.

Vehicle Registration Tax (VRT)

A 'Nox' levy will be applied to passenger and SUV vehicles with effect from 1st January 2020. This will replace the diesel surcharge introduced in Budget 2019. The Nox charge will be capped at a maximum of €4,850 for diesel vehicles and €600 for other vehicles. Relief for hybrid electric vehicles and PHEVs is being extended to 31st December 2020.

Energy

An increase in Mineral Oil Tax rates (taking effect from 9th October 2019) The new rates (per 1,000 litres) will be €601.69 for light oil, €494.90 for heavy oil). The Diesel Rebate Scheme will be adjusted to give effect to provisions to be included in the Finance Act 2019. There will be an increase in the rate of the Natural Gas Carbon Tax to €5.22 per megawatt hour at Net Calorific Value and €4.71 per megawatt hour at Gross Calorific Value. This will take effect from 1st May 2020. There will be an increase in the rates of Solid Fuel Carbon Tax: Coal (€68.48 per tonne), Peat briquettes (€47.67 per tonne), milled peat (€23.62 per tonne), other peat (€35.43 per tonne). This will take effect from 1st May 2020.

Property

Stamp Duty (payable to the purchaser) on the purchase or transfer of non-residential property (including land) is increased from 6% to 7.5%. Stamp Duty (payable to the lessee) charged on the premium component of a lease of non-residential property is also increased to 7.5%. A Stamp Duty charge of 1% will apply where a 'cancellation scheme' of arrangement, in accordance with Part 9 of the Companies Act 2014, is used for the acquisition of a company. This applies to transactions on or after 9th Oct 2019. The Help to Buy (HTB) incentive is extended for two more years. The Living City Initiative is being extended until the end of 2022.

Benefit-in-kind (BIK)

The BIK exemption for electric cars and vans with a market value of less than €50,000, is being extended to the end of 2022. Where the original market value exceeds €50,000, the preferential tax treatment is also extended to the end of 2022.

Employment and Investment Incentive (EII)

Full Income Tax Relief (40%) to be provided in the year in which the investment is made. The annual investment limit will be increased from €150K to €250K. A new €500K annual investment limit has been introduced in the case of those who invest for a minimum period of 10 years.

*Disclaimer: The above only is only a general summary and does not purport to be a legal interpretation of the statutory provisions

Wicklow hoteliers criticise missed opportunity to support tourism

Hotels and guesthouses in Wicklow have criticised the Government's decision not to reverse the tourism VAT hike, which came into effect following last year's budget.

Brian McNamara, Chair of the IHF Wicklow branch said the increase in VAT from 9% to 13.5% has seriously undermined Irish tourism's international competitiveness and the ability of tourism enterprises such as hotels to re-invest in their business and local economy.

Mr McNamara states: "Budget 2020 is heralded as a Budget for Brexit. Despite the serious challenges facing tourism, Government has failed to recognise the importance of competitiveness and its role in the ever increase in the cost of doing business in Ireland. This is a missed opportunity to rebalance the tax take from tourism at a time when economic indicators provide significant warning of a change in outlook.

"Our industry has been one of the great success stories of the economy in recent years, supporting 270,000 jobs and promoting balanced regional growth across the country. Here in Wicklow it supports 13,900 jobs and contributes some €135m to the local economy annually. It is therefore disappointing that the Government has failed to recognise the exceptional

challenges now confronting tourism businesses. A rate of 9% VAT is the appropriate level for Ireland and would put us mid-range in a European context. This is what the Government should be looking at to ensure long-term sustainable growth of our industry.

"Ireland is already a very high-cost economy by international standards which adds to the challenges of an indigenous export industry and this is being made worse by the higher 13.5% VAT. We are now in a situation where we have a higher rate of tourism VAT than 27 European countries with which we compete. Add to this the challenges around Brexit and the 27% drop in the value of Sterling in recent years and you have a perfect storm."

Mr McNamara states that the impact is being felt on the ground by tourism businesses with 57% of hotels having seen a fall in overall business levels this year according to recent research by the IHF. The UK market is very challenging with 78% of hotels having seen a fall-off in business from Great Britain and 60% reporting a decrease in business from Northern Ireland. Some 64% report that the drop in the value of Sterling has had a negative impact on business levels while 73% say they are now re-examining investment plans and taking a more cautious approach for next year.



Five leading travel and lifestyle journalists from a number of high-profile Spanish media outlets - including a national daily newspaper, weekly newspapers and radio stations - have been visiting Ireland and Wicklow, as guests of Tourism Ireland and Fáilte Ireland. The journalists, who have a combined readership of more than 22 million people, will highlight the wide range of things to see and do here to their readers and listeners. Their action-packed itinerary included visits to Glendalough, the Powerscourt Estate and the Powerscourt Distillery. Pictured are panish journalists with Pura Gimenez, Tourism Ireland (third left) and tour guide Cecilia Ferrari (right), at the Powerscourt Distillery.

'Workers and families across Wicklow let down by budget'

Responding to the Budget, Sinn Féin TD John Brady accused the Government of failing to give workers and families a break.

Deputy Brady described the budget as "short on ideas, short on policies and short on solutions, while at the same time increasing stealth taxes that will hit workers and families".

Deputy Brady said "This Budget could and should have given workers and families a break. It hasn't. Instead it has burdened them with an increase in carbon taxes, a stealth charges than cannot be avoided by most people living outside of the cities. The increase of €6 per tonne in the Carbon Tax coupled with the hike of 10% in the Property Tax that was recently voted though by Wicklow councillors from the Green Party, Social Democrats, Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael will hit families and workers hard, right across Wicklow.

"With the political will and the right ideas, this budget could put money back in people's pockets and improved their access to public services. Clearly, neither Fine Gael nor their Fianna Fáil backers have the will or the ideas.

"It's interesting to Wicklow Fianna Fáil TD's trying to claim credit for certain measures in the budget, a budget they negotiated with Fine Gael. They must also take responsibility for the regressive budget in its entirety. This includes the failure to increase the minimum wage for the 137,000 workers who currently earn the minimum wage. It also includes people with disabilities who have been completely forgotten in the budget. Nothing has been done to

tackle the huge costs of childcare and the failure to increase the State Pension for our older citizens will leave many wondering why vulture funds and banks have been prioritised over families, workers, people with disabilities and our older citizens. Fianna Fáil must take responsibility for all measures in this budget.

"The budget should have begun to broaden our horizons, making sure that work pays and delivers security and the chance to plan for the future. It could have marked the beginning for a fair tax system, making sure that those who benefit most from our economy - the banks, multinationals and international property investors who have been given a free ride for far too long - pay



John Brady TD

their fair share.

"The government and Fianna Fáil have again failed to deliver on these modest expectations. It is a budget that is short on ideas, short on policies and short on solutions. It is a budget that lacks ambition, lacks direction, and lacks hope.

"Sinn Féin presented a fully-costed alternative budget that shows how we could have invested in public services, sup-

ported growth in our economy and giving families and workers a break.

"We outlined the options that the government could have taken to ensure real and deliverable solutions, putting citizens, not vested interests, at the centre of the economy and at the top of their priorities.

"The truth is that Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil - partners in this budgetary process - could have tackled the rip-off costs faced by countless families - sky-high insurance premiums, extortionate rents and mortgage rates, eye-watering childcare costs and back to school costs. They choose not to do so, to their shame."

Deputy Brady concluded "The Sinn Féin budget proposals would have raised incomes and made sure that work delivers a secure standard of living. Unfortunately, it appears that for so long as Fine Gael are in government ordinary families and workers will be forced to pay the price for their failed policies."

'Budget answers call for more Gardaí'

The Budget has answered the call for more Gardai, Stephen Donnelly TD said. The Fianna Fáil TD explained "I was so worried about the rise in crime rates in Wicklow that I held a public meeting on the issue in Bray last month. That night, I called on the Government to dramatically increase the number of Gardaí on our streets.

"Looking at Budget 2020 it appears that someone was listening, and we shall indeed see an extra 700 new Garda recruits added to the force, as well as an increased Garda budget of €81 million.

"I know that many of the local residents and traders who attended the meeting in the Royal Hotel at the end of September will be very relieved to see that more resources are on their way. They were shocked, as I was, to hear the latest figures from Wicklow's Joint Policing Committee which showed just how prevalent crime has become in the county."

Deputy Donnelly was referring to statistics which show a 36% increase in burglaries to nearly 400 so far this year, twice as many muggings as last year, and also increases car break-ins (up 17%), shoplifting (up 41%, mainly drink and perfume taken from chemists and off licences), physical and sexual assault, rape (up 33%), assault causing harm (up 26%), public order offences (up 18%), and drug offences (up 57%).

He continued: "We're lucky to have such dedicated and hardworking Gardaí. Unfortunately, their numbers and resources have been depleted in recent years. So, despite their hard work, crime figures have been on the rise here. Hopefully the Budget measures announced today will go a long way towards solving that problem, but the fight isn't over yet. We still need to make sure that Wicklow gets its fair share of the new resources. I have written directly to the Garda Commissioner to explain the urgency for our county to get more Gardaí and I will keep the pressure on until we're listened to yet again," concluded Donnelly.



Stephen Donnelly TD

'Wicklow primary pupils and principals short-changed'

The Irish National Teachers' Organisation INTO have stated that primary school pupils and teachers have been 'short changed' by the 2020 Budget.

"Wicklow teachers helped lead a nationwide campaign to ensure that every politician in Dáil Éireann was educated on the challenges facing our primary education system. Class sizes are supersized, school leaders are not supported, and our system grossly underfunds the running of primary schools to the tune of €46 million per year. It's clear that school leaders and pupils have been short-changed in the budget. The government has failed to respond to the struggles facing school leaders.

"Principals and teaching principals in Irish primary schools are overworked, underpaid and grappling with never-ending administrative work emerging from the Department of Education and Skills and other state agencies.

"It is beyond time to restore the key middle management posts cut ten years ago. Budget 2018 and 2019 failed to deliver any restoration. Budget 2020 was an opportunity when assistant principal posts could have been given back to schools. Teaching principals have demanded a minimum of one leadership and management day per week and this budget has failed to deliver on this reasonable demand.

While some restorations in class sizes for small schools are welcome, Irish primary school classes continue to be the largest in the Eurozone."

ISME welcome changes announced to Key Employee Engagement Program

ISME, the Irish Small and Medium Enterprises Association, described Budget 2020 as "steady-as-she-goes, incremental budget, with nominally small adjustments across a very small tax package."

It welcomed changes to the Key Employee Engagement Program (KEEP), but added "we must await the fine detail of the proposed changes in the Finance Bill to see if they make the scheme workable. KEEP has failed to take off in the last two budgets.

"The changes to the R&D tax credit regime for small and micro businesses are welcome. The credit increases to 30%, which will be extended to qualifying pre-trading expenditure.

"Entrepreneurial reliefs remain unchanged. Some small adjustments to these could have produced disproportion-

ately positive outcomes, for nominal cost to the Exchequer. There are no adjustments to income taxes. As a result of this non-indexation, PAYE yield will likely increase next year as a result of rising wages in the economy."

Speaking to *Wicklow Times*, Billy Tyrrell from Arklow Marine Services, a shipbuilding and ship repairs family business since 1864, complained that the looming cloud of Brexit and a shortage of skilled labour were the main challenges facing his business.

He says "Everything's hanging on Brexit, it's having a major impact. We're

busy right now, but it's a struggle, we've had to try and find alternative markets but it's difficult."

Arklow Marine Services employs 15 people, and Mr Tyrrell says that there is a "major skills shortage" that the Budget, the Government and the education system has failed to address.

Mr Tyrrell highlighted the shortage of skilled apprentices. "Schools are too focused on gearing students for college, while apprenticeships are being ignored as viable options," he said. "College doesn't suit everyone. It's important going forward for the Irish economy to address this skills shortage."

The ISME Annual Conference in Citywest on 23rd October will host a discussion on Brexit.



Anita Kerr, Catherine Lowe, Sebastian Wright, Charlie Dodson, Charlie McConnell, Cian Smith, Arwen Robinson, and Jemima Forde at the official opening of the Greystones Harbour Sea Scouts' new den.

New den for Greystones Sea Scouts opens

Greystones Harbour Sea Scouts celebrated the official opening of their brand new den last weekend. The den, which boasts a kitchen, a meeting room and changing rooms was unveiled after two years of hard work.

The facility is used to house the Beaver, Cubs and Sea Scouts sections of 18th Wicklow Greystones Harbour Sea Scouts.

More than 60 members meet at the den each week. The group also have a "Boat Deck" next door where the group keep their growing fleet of sailing boats, rowing boats and kayaks.

During the summer the Sea Scouts are afloat most weeks in and around the harbour and then use the den for activities games and in the winter.

For the opening the Sea Scouts braved the rough seas in rowing boats and kayaks while on shore visitors enjoyed a BBQ and music in the sunshine.

The opening was used as a chance to recognise the incredible work of leaders over the years.

Michael Andrews, Amber Craughwell, Finbarr O'Connor, Manus Hingerty, Ronan O'Farrell, John Bell and Anita Kerr and Stephen Bellhouse were all recognised with five year service award. Wendy Morgan was recognised with a ten year award while Eugene McHugh received his 50 year award.

Mr McHugh, a former Group Leader and a founding member of the Sea Scout Group in Greystones officially cut the ribbon for the opening.

Current Group leader Tony Wright said "It was great to see all our scout friends and supporters there. It was a milestone for the group to finally have our own dedicated facilities so close to the water.

"Scouting is about getting the kids outside, getting



Eugene McHugh accepts his award for 50 years of service to the Sea Scouts, from Kate Goodwin, at the official opening of the Greystones Harbour Sea Scouts' new den.

them involved in water sports and helping them develop some of the skills they might need in life. Having such a fantastic facility like this means the future for Sea Scouts in Greystones is extremely bright."

New home for Greystones Coastguard looks like smooth sailing

Fianna Fail Health spokesperson Stephen Donnelly has said that revamped designs for the new HQ of the Greystones Coastguard have been given the green light.

Deputy Donnelly explained, "The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform has confirmed to me that the coastguard has agreed on plans for a single storey building at the harbour.

"I submitted a Parliamentary Question directly to the Minister who told me that while it was expected that the existing planning permission would suffice for the new design, the OPW has been advised by Wicklow County Council that another planning application will need to be lodged for the new design. The OPW is currently working on this and it is expected that the application will be lodged in the coming weeks.

"This progress is not only good news for the Coastguard, but also the Gardaí. As most people know the local Garda Station in Greystones is hoping to use

the current coastguard base as an extension when it gets its upgrade. As it happens, I also asked a parliamentary Question about the Garda Station and was assured that funding for the refurbishment is included in the "Capital Works Programme 2016-2021" for An Garda Síochána. Hopefully that means funding has already been earmarked for the improvement so we're not having to look for 'new' money.

"The final piece of this puzzle is to make sure that that the Gardaí don't have to wait until the coastguard has physically moved out, before they can start all their pre-building paperwork. I'm going to look for permission to let them start their plans as soon as possible, shaving years off the project. It's years our emergency services don't have to waste", concluded Donnelly.

BirdWatch Ireland warns urgent action needed to prevent Curlew's extinction

BirdWatch Ireland welcomed the recent announcement by Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Josepha Madigan TD, acknowledging the recommendations of the Curlew Task Force, which are aimed at saving the Curlew, one of our most threatened breeding birds, but warns that without a significant increase spending on protection measures the species remains at serious risk of extinction in Ireland.

The Curlew Task Force was set up in 2017 in response to widespread concerns about the declines in breeding Curlew numbers, with a National Parks and Wildlife Service-funded survey carried out by BirdWatch Ireland showing that the population had fallen to perhaps as low as 150 pairs, a decline of probably over 90%, mostly on bogs and marginal farmland. Over a period of two years, a wide range of stakeholders, including BirdWatch Ireland, other NGOs, farming organisations, and academic institutions, worked to propose a set of recommendations to help reverse the declines.

Recommendations include the need for payments to landowners for sympathetic management, protection for Curlew sites from inappropriate developments such

as peat extraction, afforestation and intensification, as well as further research. The task force also makes an overarching call for the development of a Species Action Plan aimed at rescuing the bird.

"Since 2012, when BirdWatch Ireland first wrote to then Minister Deenihan, calling for urgent action to protect Curlews, the population has continued to decline," said Dr. Anita Donaghy, Assistant Head of Conservation with BirdWatch Ireland. "In the interim, there has been some positive action from the Government, and this is welcome; however, significantly more funding is required if we are to have any hope of saving this iconic species from extinction.

"Ireland is only the second

country in the world to have declared a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency, but due to the species' rapid and widespread decline, we are also in danger of becoming the first EU country to lose the Curlew to extinction. Other ground nesting birds such as Lapwing are on a similar trajectory. At a time when the Government is formulating major policies that will shape our farming landscape for the next ten years, such as the CAP Strategic Plan and the Climate Action Plan, recognition must be given to the importance of protecting areas with nesting Curlews from afforestation and other damaging land use changes, as well as supporting farmers who maintain high nature value farmland, such as the places where Curlews breed."

My Heart is an Ocean

A new exhibition by Fiona Chan opens November 11th at Signal Arts Centre, Bray. The exhibition features a series of paintings in acrylic, watercolour and gouache. It will be on display until 24th November.

With 'My Heart is an Ocean', Fiona Chan ties the emotions she went through during a turbulent time in her life to places she has experienced personal revelations. Her paintings tell of a person seeking safety and hope during a time of illness, family discord and separation, of going into shadows and of coming out of shadows into light.

The artist has arranged the work into a

cozy, organised atmosphere. They relay to the viewer the feelings of enclosure and burdens in living.

Raised in Mulhuddart, Chan is a visually impaired artist based in Ballsbridge. She is a Higher National Diploma graduate of Fibre arts from Ballyfermot college of Further Education in Dublin. In 2013 she had her first Group exhibition titled 'Nature through art' at Castle

Espie Gallery, County Down and a group exhibition titled 'Barking dog' held at Avenue Road Gallery, Dublin 8.

Chan is known for her use of powerful imagery with delicate pragmatic use of the brush. When asked about exhibition, she said that while creating the paintings she felt as though she was coming to terms with all that had befallen her during the past six years in terms of her health and personal life. Each painting was a therapeutic process in many ways to get back to a more stable way of living.

Most of the artwork in Fiona Chan's studio reflects aspects of nature under change, the elements, erosion and contain many upcycled materials. The 'My heart is an Ocean' exhibition will delight guests with pleasing blends of colour, shade and emotive imagery.



Artwork by Fiona Chan



Cllr Tommy Annesley, George Horsman, and Matthew O'Gorman are pictured at the Arklow Tidy Towns Gardens & Estates prizegiving evening in Arklow Library

Employers encouraged to speak with disabled workers

The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission has called on Wicklow employers to think about how they can make access to job recruitments and workplaces across the county fairer for people with disabilities.

A core part of this, the Commission advises is to ensure that employers speak directly with people with disabilities to understand what reasonable accommodations related to work can be simply made.

The call comes as the latest CSO Census figures show that only 24% of people in Wicklow who have a disability were at work compared to 54% of the county's general population.

A recent event focused on "Achieving Equality in Workplace: Reasonable accommodation in practice". It was hosted by the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, which brought together over 150 public and private sector employers, trade unions, people with disabilities and civil society organisations

from across Ireland to discuss discrimination against people with disabilities in employment.

Figures released by the Commission show that contacts to it from members of the public related to disability discrimination in employment, have been the top issue raised over the last 4 years, and figures for the first half of 2019 have seen a further rise to 36% of all contacts.

The event took place weeks after a landmark Supreme Court ruling (Daly v Nano Nagle) significantly clarified the rights of persons with disabilities to reasonable workplace accommodation from employers. The event also took place in the new context of Ireland now holding obligations under the UN Convention

on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) having ratified the Convention in March 2018.

Chief Commissioner, Emily Logan announced at the meeting that the Commission is to use its statutory powers to prepare and bring forward a new legal code of practice to promote greater employment of people with disabilities. This code once completed will be legally admissible in evidence in court, Workplace Relations Commission and Labour Court proceedings.

Emily Logan, Chief Commissioner of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission stated: "The recruitment and retention of people with disabilities is an opportunity for businesses large and small across

Wicklow to tap into significant skills and experience."

"Employers in Wicklow need to integrate reasonable accommodation as set out in law for people with disabilities into the routine recruitment, selection and employment processes in order to change negative employment trends we have seen."

Vivian Rath, Member of the Commission's Disability Advisory Committee commented:

"People with disabilities are very familiar with our own needs and as such are best positioned to advise on the necessary supports that will enable us to be successful in our jobs. The well-known disability mantra-nothing about us, without us-should be kept top-of-mind focussing any discussion on reasonable workplace accommodation on the particular person and their specific needs."

'Local Link services are best way to make rural Wicklow sustainable'

Social Democrats General Election candidate for Wicklow Cllr. Jennifer Whitmore says that investment in Local Link bus services is the best way to make rural Wicklow sustainable.

Speaking on the issue Cllr Whitmore said "rather than the recent calls to restrict cars in rural towns and villages, we need to ensure there are sufficient community buses to service these rural areas which, in turn, could help build sustainable local economies.

"Local Link can provide greater connectivity between towns and other services, increase tourism as well as creating local jobs which in themselves are conducive to a sustainable local economy.

"However, it is hugely disappointing there was limited information given

in Budget 2020 in relation to Local Link funding. Unfortunately, rural connectivity does not appear to feature as a priority for Fine Gael and the Government and this can be seen in the continued decline of many towns and villages across rural Wicklow.

"I worked hard with the local communities in Wicklow Town and North Wicklow to get a Local Link bus service up and running from Wicklow to Glendalough, collecting over 3,500 signatures of support in a petition which I handed into the NTA. Since being set up



Cllr Jennifer Whitmore

the bus link has been hugely successful in bringing people to key areas along the route benefiting local businesses and the community as a whole.

"The petition also included a proposal for a bus link from Ashford to Roundwood; Greystones

Dart Station to Roundwood via Kilcoole and Newtownmount-kennedy, and a loop of Greystones Dart, Delgany, Blacklion and Charlesland. I am in continuous discussions with the NTA and other stakeholders on these proposals, which are badly needed as the population increases.

"I believe there's a strong case for increased Local Link bus connections across the county particularly for towns and villages in rural Wicklow which have suffered from rural decline under Fine Gael's tenure. Local Link would be a great way to generate healthy local economies as circulation of money is increased on a local level," concluded Whitmore.

SPECS attends national showcase to share learning and plan for the future

The 12 Area Based Childhood (ABC) initiatives, including Wicklow based SPECS (Supporting Parents and Early Childhood Services) attended a national showcase on what has been achieved to date and to plan for the future.

Bray based SPECS presented an information stand on its work with lead agency Bray Area Partnership.

The event enabled all of the initiatives who comprise the ABC Programme to exhibit their work, which is focused on delivering prevention and early intervention programmes to support young families.

TDs and Senators were also invited to the event in Dublin, and Bray representatives Deputy John Brady and Councillor Melanie Corrigan attended. Maryrose Costello, SPECS Coordinator said it was of great value to present the work delivered in Bray and to also learn

about the learnings of the 11 other initiatives. "Since 2015, SPECS has delivered evidence-based prevention and early intervention programmes in the greater Bray area. In excess of over 1000 parents, children and staff have benefitted from our services.

"It has been very valuable to learn what other initiatives have achieved, within their communities, and what has worked best. It is also very important that as colleagues we agree a shared view on how to take this work into the future for the benefit of as many families as possible."



Attending a national showcase to share learning and plan for the future of the Area Based Childhood (ABC) Programme were Fionnuala Curry CYPSC Wicklow, Peter Brennan from Bray Area Partnership, Cllr Melanie Corrigan, Deirdre Murphy SPECS, John Brady TD, Maryrose Costello SPECS, Lulu O'Kelly SPECS and Kevin Webster TUSLA. The event enabled the 12 local initiatives who comprise the ABC Programme to present their work, which is focused on delivering prevention and early intervention programmes to support young families.

Budding filmmakers encouraged to bring their sustainable energy ideas to the big screen

Students from primary and post primary schools are being encouraged to enter this year's SEAI One Good Idea competition. Students will create a one-minute film and campaign to inspire people to save energy and reduce carbon emissions. This year, four regional finals will be held in Omniplex cinemas around the country.

Students will see their film on the big screen and present their campaign to a panel of judges. Regional winners from each event will then compete at the National Final in Dublin.

The competition encourages students, their families and communities to take individual and collective responsibility for tackling climate change. Students will learn important skills in communication, film-making and creating change at a community level. In the last decade, over one and a half million people in Ireland have been reached by the projects put together by 7,500 inspiring schoolchildren.

Commenting on the impact of the One Good Idea competition to date, Emer Barry, SEAI's education executive said "Our young people have some of the best and most creative ideas for bringing about positive change in society. SEAI's One Good Idea competition taps into that creativity and gives students

the opportunity to become active energy citizens.

We are delighted to introduce four regional finals for this year's One Good Idea school competition, which give more student's the opportunity to showcase their ideas for taking climate action. Film is an incredibly powerful way to communicate and increasingly important for raising awareness in social and digital media. Positive changes to how we use energy can, and does, make a huge difference to our carbon emissions. I encourage students and teachers across the country to get involved."

Participating students have the chance to win prizes for themselves and their schools. Awareness campaigns can cover energy use at home, at school, for transport, energy related purchases and renewable energy.

For full details and to apply online please visit at www.seai.ie/onegoodidea.



Pictured are Sandra Hall, Cllr Pat Fitzgerald, Sandra Duffy, Reece Henderson, John Fogarty, John Dobson and Joe Goode at the Arklow Tidy Towns Gardens & Estates prizegiving evening in Arklow Library

Make sure your business is Brexit Ready with LEO Wicklow's free 'Brexit Essentials' Seminar

With only weeks to go until the UK are scheduled to leave the European Union, Local Enterprise Office Wicklow are providing local businesses with an opportunity to attend a free Brexit Essentials Seminar. This half-day seminar takes place on Friday the 25th of October in the Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy.

This seminar focusses on key steps to prepare your business for Brexit and is relevant to all business sectors irrespective of the different issues facing every sector. These issues could include, businesses in the food industry being conscious of how customs duty and border delays might impact on their product, businesses in the construction industry will be very aware of the knock on impact that border delays could have on their deadlines, businesses in the textiles that may be

impacted by high duty rates and IT companies may have to consider export controls.

Using practical examples, guest speakers at the Seminar will address the above challenges and other issues that may arise around Supply Chain, Customs procedures, Tariffs and Duties, Working Capital and financing, currency exposure and certification and regulation and will offer first steps to take in your preparation.

The Guest Speakers include: Moria Creedon

founder of Artemis Consulting, Tom McGrath from BDO Ireland, and John Madigan from the Strategic Baking Corporation of Ireland. These speakers come with a wealth of knowledge that business owners in Wicklow can use to their advantage with regard to preparing for Brexit.

Vibeke Delahunt, Head of Enterprise, Wicklow Local Enterprise Office said, "We are at a crucial time now, but it is not too late to start preparing for Brexit and this seminar

will offer a good starting point for business owners who are wondering what to tackle first by providing a practical checklist of the essential actions needed to mitigate against risks. This is the last of the Brexit training events that we here in the Local Enterprise Office are running before the end of October. It is crucial for local businesses to take every precaution and be prepared for the fallout of the UK from the EU. There is a suite of supports available through the LEO and I urge all entrepreneurs to contact us for support".

Book your place for the free Brexit Essentials Seminar here: www.localenterprise.ie.

Bin It! campaign visits schools in Bray and Wicklow Town

The annual nationwide Bin It! campaign kicked off recently with visits to schools across the country in a bid to educate and raise awareness of issues surrounding litter and correct litter disposal amongst students.

The campaign commenced with visits to Co. Wicklow schools including St Gerard's School, Bray and Dominican College,

Wicklow Town. This is the 13th year the Bin it! campaign has toured across the country, with 521 school visits and a total of 57,778

students having taken part since the campaign first began in 2006. Bin It! features an actor-led workshop which visits first and second-year students in secondary schools across participating local authority areas. The workshop incorporates a theatre-in-education session which encourages students to dispose of gum litter, and litter more generally, in a responsible manner.

Bin It! forms an integral component part of the 'Gum Litter Taskforce' (GLT) gum litter education campaign which seeks to encourage cor-

rect gum disposal amongst the public. The workshop tour is supported by a website (biniteducation.com) which includes games and quizzes for students, lesson plans, teachers' notes, posters and activity cards to help integrate the theme of responsible litter disposal into the curriculum.

Chairman of the GLT, Paul Kelly said "The campaign would not have reached the level of success it has done today had it not been for the enthusiastic buy in from young people in particular in initiatives such as Bin It! and I am delighted to see so many schools across the country sign up again this year."



Pictured at the recent 'Prepare Your Business for Customs' workshop in Cermont, Rathnew, were Michael Connolly, Connolly's Men's Wear, Anne Longmore, Hisun Technologies Ltd, and Mark Williams, The Sports Room. Pic: Joe Keogh

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Team Hope celebrates 10th annual Shoebox Appeal

Team Hope has launched the 2019 Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal as it celebrates its 10th Annual Appeal.

Team Hope is encouraging families, friends, schools, community groups and businesses across Wicklow to work

together and inspire teamwork as it aims to surpass its 2 millionth shoebox and deliver a record-breaking 280,000

gift-filled shoeboxes to children affected by poverty by Friday, November 8th.

Speaking at the launch, Wicklow's Elena Tice said: "There aren't many opportunities for children to feel a part of something bigger but as we stacked the shoeboxes up, you could sense that every box was going to another child and that they were going to be opened with a big smile."

Jonathan Douglas, Team Hope Coordinator for County Wicklow added: "I'm encouraging everyone to rally around as many people as they can and to inspire them to play their part in help-

ing us smash our target. That way as many children as possible will experience the joy and excitement of receiving a gift this Christmas. Every shoe box counts!"

Getting involved with Team Hope's Christmas Shoebox Appeal is simple. All you have to do is find an empty shoebox, wrap it in Christmas paper and fill it with gifts for a boy or girl aged between 2 and 14, attach €4 and bring it to a local drop off point before Friday, November 8th. When considering items that are best to gift, think of the 4W's: Write, Wash; Wear and Wow.

There are a number of drop off points in County Wicklow.

To find your nearest drop-off point, visit www.teamhope.ie.



Rosie Cooney of AIB Bank presents Siobhan Brennan of Crazy Glazing with the Best New Business Award at the Wicklow Town & District Chamber Awards in Tinakilly House, Rathnew

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplansdesign.com) Seeks planning permission for conversion of commercial office building to a dwelling (its original use) and associated works at Overdene, Wentworth Place, Wicklow, Co. Wicklow for Eolas Recruitment Ltd. 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

I Michael Fleming intend to apply for permission for a new dwelling, garage, new entrance, driveway, well, treatment unit & polishing filter, two stable buildings for horses, concrete yard, a platform for the placing of containers for storing equestrian waste and associate works at Crone Upper, Redcross, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Council Buildings, Wicklow Town, during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee within 5 weeks from submission of application to Planning Authority.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Board of Management seeks permission for 2 new portakabins as classrooms replacing 1 existing portakabin and 1 removed portakabin at Scoil na Coroine Mhuire, Ashford, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I Bill O Toole intend to apply for permission for the construction of a new dwelling, wastewater treatment unit & polishing filter, new well, new entrance onto public road and associate works at Carriggower, Kilpedder, 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.

Laragh Glendalough Active Retirement

Laragh-Glendalough Active Retirement are back in action with Christmas outings planned and their monthly lunches. If you are feeling lonely or isolated coming into the winter come and join the group. They meet most Tuesdays, so if you fancy a chat, a cuppa and some light exercise, bowls, music come along on at 11am, they welcome any newcomer. For further information, call Denise at the Brockagh Centre on (0404) 45600 or drop in.

Wicklow Men's Sheds Showcase

There will be a showcase of the various Men's Sheds organizations in Wicklow on Wednesday 16th October in Newtownmountkennedy Community Centre at 11am.

The Irish Men's Sheds Association said the event will see sheds from all over Wicklow come together, with 80 men showcasing their amazing woodwork, paintings and more.

"A number of our partner organisation's will also be present on the day, including the Irish Heart Foundation, the Alzheimer's Society of Ireland and the National Screening Service. Our partners will be carrying out health checks for all attendees on the day and will be available to answer any questions. If you would like to attend the Showcase event or to interview a spokesperson from the Men's Sheds, please contact Andrew Rooney on 085 7676 413 or email andrew@menscheds.ie."

RECRUITMENT



Part-Time Administration Officer

Wicklow Uplands Council (WUC) is seeking to recruit a Part-time Administration Officer (16 hours per week). The Administration Officer will have responsibility for implementing the financial and administration requirements of the Council and its associated projects.

The successful applicant will be a highly organised, capable individual who can multi-task effectively and prioritise key tasks. Candidates should have experience working in an accounts admin/payroll and office administration role and possess excellent time management skills and keen attention to detail.

Experience working in the community and voluntary sector and familiarity with the governance code for charitable organisations is desirable.

The post will be based at WUC's office in Roundwood, Co Wicklow. Some degree of flexibility in working hours may be required.

A full job description is available at our website www.wicklowuplands.ie

Email applications with CV and cover letter to:
Brian Dunne: info@wicklowuplands.ie
Closing date: 5pm Wed 30th Oct 2019

THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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

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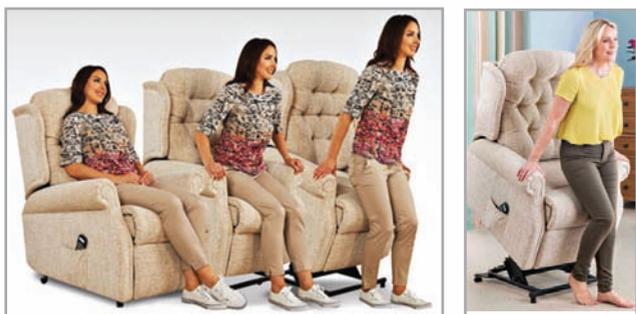
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