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STUDENT ACCOMODATION page 14

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Tuesday 22nd October 2019 5 Eglinton Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow Tel: 01 - 2869111 www.wicklowtimes.net E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie

WINDFARMS FROM BRAY TO ARKLOW

A foreshore license is being sought by energy companies to carry out offshore surveys for a planned wind farm, 10 kilometres off the coast of Bray. This is separate from the marine windfarms planned for the seas off Arklow and Wicklow.

Innogy Renewables Ireland and Saorgas Energy are currently in the design phase of Dublin Array Offshore Wind Farm, to be located on the Kish and Bray banks. If granted, the license will allow Innogy to carry out further offshore surveys that will enable them to progress the engineering design and inform the ongoing environmental assessments required as part of the consent process. The granting of the license does not give permission to build the wind farm, but will allow offshore surveys and sampling to take place over a five-month period.

The company will then seek a full public consultation, likely to take place in Spring of next year. Following that consultation, the company will update their Foreshore lease application and the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government will decide if the project can go ahead.

The company says there will be extensive consultation and community engagement, and a number of stakeholders will have the opportunity to engage. Innogy hope to start construction in 2024. In the meantime, all updates will be posted on the Dublin Array

project website.

Green Party Councillor and Cathaoirleach of Bray Steven Matthews commented, "I made a submission on the 2013 Dublin Array proposal where I outlined my support for wind energy provided the environmental and marine impacts are adequately addressed. The climate emergency is apparent to all and the urgency to reduce carbon emissions is crucial to our planet."

"I proposed that the 2013 project should include upskilling and apprenticeships in renewable energy systems construction, commission-



Charlie Errity and Emily Birchall, with Jane, Rebaecca, and Simon Harrison at Fishers of Newtownmountkennedy's 40th anniversary party.

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ing, maintenance and decommissioning phases over the lifetime of that project and will seek the same for this 2020 project."

Cllr Derek Mitchell recently said he was opposed to the Dublin Array wind farm. Speaking recently about wind farm projects off the Co. Wicklow coast he said "In 2005 the Codling Bank scheme obtained a foreshore licence for 220 turbines 15km from the nearest point, Greystones and Kilcoole, following consultation. In 2013 Dublin Array applied for a foreshore licence for a large wind farm on the Bray and Kish Banks - 145 windmills to be 9km from shore at the nearest point. Ireland needs to do better at saving carbon and these windfarms will help. I supported the Codling Bank one because it has a limited effect on the view.

However I opposed the Dublin Array one as it has a very negative effect on the view from Greystones and the Cliff Walk."

Peter Lefroy, Dublin Array Project Director at Innogy said "With an investment expected to be in excess of €1 billion, the project offers a significant economic opportunity with potential supply chain benefits, infrastructure and associated jobs and contracts. We are committed to working with communities to develop a meaningful approach to supporting local communities, in line with the requirements of the Government's Renewable Energy Support Scheme, when this is finalised."

The license application is now live on the Department's website and can also be viewed at Bray, Greystones, Wicklow and Shankill Garda stations.

BREXIT ESSENTIALS SEMINAR

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- Accessing Finance

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Date: Friday, 25th October 2019
Time: 9.00am - 1.30pm
Location: The Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy
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John Madigan, Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland
Tom McGrath, BDO Ireland
Moira Creedon, Artemis Consulting



Rehabcare Arklow made a donation of €240 to Sinead Tarmey of the Wicklow Hospice Foundation from the proceeds of a recent coffee morning held in their premises in Arklow.

Gala Race Night

Wicklow Dementia Support is running a Gala Race Night on Friday October 25th in The Martello, Bray. Doors open at 7pm and first race is 8pm. Entry is free and the night starts with a complementary prosecco reception. As well as prizes for each race winner, there are also fabulous prizes for best dressed lady, best dressed gent and best hat. Virgin Media's Tina Koumarianos is the MC. To buy a horse email RaceNight@WicklowDementiaSupport.org or see Facebook.com/WicklowDementia.

65th ICA Drama Festival

Entries are invited for the 65th Wicklow ICA Drama festival which will take place in Glenealy Village Hall from 24th-26th January 2020. This is an open festival, not confined to ICA groups. There are two sections in the festival. Section A for one act plays or a single act from a full length play and Section B for sketches. For full details and entry form contact Hilda 087 9833935 or email chroche@eircom.net.

New website for Wicklow

Last week saw the official launch of the new website wicklowtown.ie. Wicklow Town Team held an event in Marine House last Wednesday for the new website that's been developed "for the county town, for the people of the town and for visitors to the town". The comprehensive website is a useful resource for anyone living in or visiting Wicklow Town, with details about upcoming events, the best places to eat, drink, shop and stay, and things to see and do.

Fundraising campaign for Bray girl with rare cancer

A fundraising campaign has been started in aid of a little Bray girl with a rare childhood cancer. The campaign was started by Lauren Hayes, whose daughter Georgia has been diagnosed with stage 5 Wilms tumours, a rare childhood cancer. There will be a fundraising event on Saturday 26th October at 12pm in Supreme Altitude Bray. A gofundme page has been set up for Georgia at www.gofundme.com/f/1r2ubswss0

Redcross Autumn Fair

Redcross Church will host an Autumn Sale on Saturday October 26th from 10.30am to 12pm at Trinity Hall, Redcross Village. There will be home baking, country produce, bric a brac, books, tea and coffee. Money raised will go towards the new building fund.

Soup and Sandwiches

The next Holy Rosary lunch will take place on Wednesday, 30th October in Kilian House Family Centre in Greystones, next to the church, from 12:15 until 2pm. Everyone is welcome to come along for home-made food and a friendly chat. The suggested donation is €5. All proceeds go to local charities.

Dementia Support Race Night

There will be a Charity Race Night in The Martello in Bray on Friday 25th October from 7pm in aid of Wicklow Dementia Support. There will be a Prosecco reception and finger foods during intermission. All are invited and admission is free. Races are being sponsored for €150 each and horses can be purchased for €25. For more info racenight@wicklowdementiasupport.org.

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Frightful family fun at Wicklow's Haunted Gaol

Frightful fun awaits all the family at Ireland's Most Haunted building this Halloween. Wicklow Gaol's Petrifying Programme for Little Monsters runs from 1-4pm on both Wednesday 30th and Thursday 31st October.

Arrive at the Monster Lounge for 1pm sharp for a Spooky Ghost Tour into the Creepy Courtyard where you'll meet Mr. Bones and make your own Mummy!

Join the Costume Parade at 2.15pm and see if you can impress our Wicked Witch and win one of our prizes for Scariest, Cutest or Best Home-Made Costume.

Then it's off to the Gaol's Pumpkin Patch to

pick a pumpkin to decorate under the watchful eye of our ghoulish guides. Eerie entertainment runs right up to 4pm.

Grown-ups Fear Not! Your Halloween Horror programme will commence when darkness descends.

On Friday the 25th October Paranormal Researchers Ireland are hosting an exclusive Paranormal Tour in

Wicklow's Haunted Gaol from 9pm.

Come & discover evidence of the spirits who wander the corridors of Ireland's Most Haunted Building from 9pm until the early hours. Limited tickets available so book in advance to avoid disappointment (€55 pp - includes tea, coffee and refreshments through the night. Over-18's only and strict no-admittance for individuals who have con-

sumed alcohol).

On Friday 1st November, take an eerie night tour of Wicklow Gaol and do it in the dark! Led by professional actors in creepy costume, you'll be lucky to escape! Doors open at 7:15 PM and tours leave every fifteen minutes until 8:30pm (Age 18+; €17 pp).

See: wicklowshistoric-gaol.com for more information or call 0404 61599.

Wicklow Lions' Bucket Collection

Wicklow Lions members were very evident at the local Tesco store for the annual bucket collection recently.

This collection is vital to the club as every cent donated by the public will be distributed within the local community leading up to the stressful and demanding time of Christmas for so many.

Wicklow Lions Club stated that "The President and members would like to thank Tesco for their on-going support every year. A special thanks to the club's secretary Maria Neilan for organising the roster for the volunteering members and lastly thanks to the ladies and gentlemen members who turned up in great numbers."

The first of the Lions Big Quiz Nights will take place in Phil Healy's Pub on November 6th and will continue until March next year with a break for Christmas.

Is Wicklow salmon a vanishing species?

To celebrate '2019 International Year of the Salmon' the East Wicklow Rivers Trust (EWRT) is inviting members of the public to learn about and debate the plight of our iconic Atlantic Salmon within their native range in Co. Wicklow with Professor Ken Whelan, research director with the Atlantic Salmon Trust.

Where have all the salmon gone? Will they ever return? Can we do anything to help them? These questions and more will be delved into.

The event will take place in Colaiste Raithin, Ravenswell, Bray on Thursday November 14th. There will be refreshments and some beautiful film of the Salmon's life cycle from 7pm. Ken's presentation will commence at 7:45pm sharp and will be followed by a Q&A. Any queries to wicklowrivers@gmail.com or ifo@wicklowrivers.ie.



Wicklow children are set to enjoy a unique Spooks Parade to kick off the Halloween season at Bray Retail Park on Saturday, 26th October. The popular event has returned after taking a break in 2018. Led by costumed characters, local children will go from store to store on a spooky adventure, listening to ghost stories and collecting vouchers for treats. A fancy-dress competition will round off the event as treats are given out. The event starts at 4.00pm, however families are encouraged to get there early to meet the characters and get their face-paint ready. To register for the Halloween Spooks Parade please visit the Bray Retail Park Facebook page.

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ANOTHER BAD DAY IN COURT FOR COUNCIL

The saga of the €100 million remediation of Whitestown dump in west Wicklow where the council was found to have dumped vast amounts of illegal waste and was aware of the shocking breach of the Waste Management Act there, has had another day in court.

Last week the Court of Appeal upheld an order giving Wicklow County Council three years to clean up what it described as a "huge and appalling" illegal dump with a "Kafkaesque" history at Whitestown in West Wicklow. Originally they were given 6 years for the remediation but nearly 3 years have elapsed.

Ms Justice Caroline Costello said the council itself dumped vast amounts of waste on the illegal Whitestown site near Baltinglass over two decades and was aware, or should have been, from at least the mid-1990s of the "shocking breach" of the Waste Management Act there.

She was giving the three-judge court's unanimous judgment last Wednesday upholding a 2017 High Court order which gave the council six years to clean up the dump.

While rejecting Brownfield Restoration Ireland Ltd.'s appeal over the six-year time limit, the court found there were errors in relation to some costs orders made by the High Court.

Ms Justice Costello said the lands holding the

Whitestown dump were originally owned by John O'Reilly, who operated the dump for more than two decades.

After the council closed the landfill in 2001 and entered the site in 2002, Mr O'Reilly sold the lands. In 2005, Brownfield (the new owners) applied to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to operate the site as a landfill and as part of the process, the council told the EPA that Brownfield had to remediate the entire site.

The EPA granted Brownfield a licence to remediate the site which required it to remove all of the waste and contaminated soil within three years.

Ms Justice Costello said in 2005, the council took proceedings against 12 parties, including Mr O'Reilly and Brownfield, for removal of waste and remediation of the site. "Those proceedings would not be particularly remarkable save for the "outstanding fact" the council itself had dumped vast amounts on the illegal landfill."

That, plus complaints from 1989 to the council about this "enormous illegal dump", rendered it

"absolutely astonishing and shocking" that the council claimed in 2001 to have "discovered" the illegal dumping.

Brownfield, having discerned the council was to a considerable extent responsible for illegal dumping on the site, took its own High Court proceedings in 2008 seeking that the local authority be required to remove waste and remediate the site.

Separately, the European Commission was pursuing Ireland over failure to deal with more than 100 illegal landfills and issued a formal notice in September 2010 which included a complaint about a delay in dealing with the Whitestown dump. The High Court proceedings were adjourned in 2012 on the basis that the waste would be removed and the council would deliver a mediated site to Brownfield within a year.

After the council informed the Department of the Environment it was a successful remediation, Ireland told the commission in 2015 that all waste had been removed from the site.

"The council cannot have believed this was the case," the judge said.

Brownfield re-entered the proceedings in 2016 over the council's approach to waste removal and remediation, including allowing much of the waste as possible to remain on the site.

The High Court's Mr Justice Richard Humphreys concluded in July 2017, after a 53 day hearing, that the council's "botched" remediation left about 93 per cent of the waste on site and he directed that the council remove all the waste and remediate the site over six years.

Dismissing Brownfield's appeal over the six-year time allowed, Ms Justice Costello said the various steps set out by the High Court all appeared necessary for this "huge" illegal dump to be remediated and there was no error by the judge.

On the cost issues, she held the High Court judge erred in principle concerning some costs orders made by him. He failed to give sufficient weight to the polluter pays principle in his ruling on certain elements of the costs of the 2008 proceedings and Brownfield was entitled to certain additional costs, she said.



Pictured above are Maria Carton, Lucy Carty, and Nicola Donegan at Fishers of Newtownmountkennedy's recent 40th anniversary party.

THANKS A (HALF) MILLION LADS!

Four former councillors in Wicklow received over 70k each in retirement gratuities, following this year's local elections.

Along with twelve others, Wicklow councillors accounted for the highest gratuities in the country, with the 16 councillor payments totalling €505,000. A total of €6 million was given to former councillors nationwide. Some 28 of the 31 local authorities across Ireland have now released the details of the amounts to be paid, following Freedom of Information requests.

Former Bray Fianna Fail councillor Pat Vance received a retirement gratuity of €73,600; Independent Jim Ruttle received €73,200; Independent Tommy Cullen €71,400; and Fianna Fail's Pat Doran €70,750.

The gratuity is calculated by awarding one fifth of a councillor's yearly representational payment for each year of service with a minimum qualifying period of two years' service. Councillors under the age of 50 will be given their gratuity upon reaching that age.

Former Fine Gael councillor Grainne McLoughlin's is €28,000 and Fine Gael's John Ryan is €51,000. Independents Brendan Thornhill, Mary McDonald, and Oliver O'Brien each have gratuities of €17,000. Independent Chris Fox will get €51,700, Independent Daire Nolan €17,000, and Sinn Fein's Nicola Lawless €17,000.

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The Irish Deer Commission is calling on motorists to be vigilant as rutting season reaches its peak

Motorists urged to be vigilant during peak of deer breeding season

It's autumn and in our forests and across our mountains, tensions are rising as the rutting season reaches its peak, the time of the year when male deer are driven by an urge to reproduce.

The Irish Deer Commission is calling on motorists to be vigilant at dawn and dusk, when deer are most active, particularly in high-risk areas such as woodlands and mountains.

"From early October until November the clash of antlers will be heard as males show off their virility to potential mates and, like gladiators entering an arena, they parade around showing off their armoury of antlers.

"While the rut is an amazing experience to witness it is also a time when there is an increased incident of road traffic accidents involving deer as male deer go in search of females and younger males are ousted by dominant males forcing deer to cross roads and motorways.

"What should drivers do in high-risk areas? Reduce speed where they see a warning sign and stay alert. Prepare to stop, never swerve as you could hit another obstacle or oncoming vehicle. When you see a deer 'dip your headlights' as the full beam may cause the deer to freeze. If a deer has crossed in front of your vehicle, be aware that others may follow. Do not approach an injured deer. If you are involved in a deer road traffic accident or come across a deer that has been involved in a road traffic accident, immediately contact the local Gardai."

Coursing licences to allow netting of hares outside areas with positive RHD2 tests

The suspension of the annual license for the netting of hares for coursing is being lifted, allowing netting on a managed and restricted basis and only in areas unaffected by the Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease (RHD2) virus.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) stated that "This follows the conclusion of discussions between the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Irish Coursing Club on a roadmap to allow a managed resumption of netting for testing and coursing in areas unaffected by the RHD2 virus, charting a responsible way forward in terms of the management and understanding of this virus."

The virus has so far been recorded in several counties including Wicklow and Wexford. Angered and disappointed by the decision, the ISPCA said "That it has not been recorded in some counties does not mean it is not present or that the county is unaffected".

It has been agreed that a number of field studies at some coursing clubs, which will involve veteri-

nary and virology expertise and input, will be carried out to supplement existing knowledge of the prevalence and nature of RHD2.

Restrictions are also being lifted on the issue of licences to the Irish Coursing Club for netting of hares, permitting netting outside of areas where wild hares and rabbits have tested positive for the virus.

The NPWS stated that "In August, following the first detection of RHD2 in an Irish wild hare, the Minister suspended the 2019/20 licences for the netting of hares for coursing meetings which had issued earlier. Since then the NPWS and DAFM have continued to test wild rabbit and hare carcasses to establish levels of the virus in Ireland. Of the 10 hares tested for RHD2 in this period, three have tested positive. These positive results were in Dublin and Wexford.

"Given both the levels

of RHD2 virus confirmed in the wild hare population to date and to increase the understanding of the levels of RHD2, the NPWS and DAFM are to undertake four field studies with the co-operation of the Irish Coursing Club in a number of locations. Sample populations of up to 100 wild hares will be captured and kept in pre-approved locations. The NPWS and DAFM will test the hares for RHD2 and observe them.

"In the context of the renewed licences for netting hares, capture will be prohibited in areas from a 25km radius of where either wild hares or wild rabbits have tested positive for RHD2. Positive tests for RHD2 in wild rabbits and hares have been returned in the following counties: Clare, Cork, Dublin, Kildare, Leitrim, Meath, Wexford, and Wicklow. Similar restrictions will operate when new positive tests for RHD2 are returned.

There will be an agreed regime of spot checks for RHD2 in those coursing clubs that are being licenced."

In a statement, the ISPCA said "To allow such activities to take place is irresponsible and reckless given the potential serious risk to hares. The suspension of licences was introduced by the Minister in August after a number of rabbits and hares tested positive for RHD2, a potentially fatal viral disease that affects rabbits and hares and can be transmitted via faeces, urine and saliva.

"The ISPCA is urging the Minister to exercise the precautionary principle and reinstate the suspension of licences with immediate effect and if RHD2 continues to spread to introduce a permanent ban on taking hares from the wild in order to protect and conserve the endemic Irish hare. The Minister is supposed to protect Irish wildlife not gamble with

its survival. While the ISPCA welcomes the introduction of a testing regime and field studies on the epidemiology of the virus, this must only be done to protect the Irish hare population, not to facilitate a return to cruel hare coursing."

In the last four seasons 74 hares have been killed or so seriously injured by greyhounds during coursing events that they had to be put to sleep by a vet.

Although this is a small percentage of the total taken from the wild, the ISPCA believes it is "completely unacceptable and cannot be justified".

A recent Red C poll showed that 77% of Irish citizens believe that hare coursing should be banned, with only 9% in support of hare coursing.

"The ISPCA believes that hare coursing is cruel and should be consigned to the history books on disease control, conservation, animal welfare and ethical grounds."

East Coast Greenway is 'not without challenges'

A draft report is expected to be published in early 2020 detailing the feasibility of the 'East Coast Greenway' project, the proposed greenway linking Greystones to Wicklow Town.

A coastal protection report by engineering consultants ARUP, for Wicklow County Council and Irish Rail, is also being completed and is expected to be ready soon.

Speaking at the October meeting of Wicklow County Council, Chair of Wicklow Town Team Dave Shannon named the greenway as the "flagship project" for the group.

He said "The plan is that the Task Force will meet early in 2020 and discuss what the next steps are. The project is not without its challenges, there are difficulties, the main one being the protection of the environment, but I don't believe the environment and the greenway are mutually exclusive, I think they can work hand in hand if we have the right approach and do the right thing."

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Frank Curran, said "there are two big issues with that greenway, one is coastal erosion, the other is the ecological side of it".

He said that these two aspects would be

"mashed together" for the finished report early next year.

Cllr Gail Dunne suggested that the greenway be completed in different phases, as is being done with the Blessington Greenway: "I think that is the way we should be doing it, we should be looking at different phases. We need to find out which is the easiest part to do and start it. If there is part of the greenway that can be done we should go and do it, we shouldn't be held back because to do the whole scheme will take time and I think we should do it in phases."

Cllr Gerry Walsh, who is working with Wicklow Town Team on the East Coast Greenway Project, said "we are all excited about it and excited about what it will mean to the tourism offering for Wicklow in economic terms as well as everything else. We've seen the difference that the Waterford Greenway has made, so it will be interesting to see the coastal protection report."

A Task Force was appointed by Minister Simon Harris in September 2018 and a

petition seeking public support for the Greenway received over 10,000 signatures. Consultants W.S Atkins were appointed by Wicklow County Council to look into the feasibility of the Greenway and different route options.

The East Coast Greenway Group has said that "We see the following key benefits of this project: Create one of the very few coastal Greenways in Europe with unrivalled scenery and market as a tourist destination both nationally and internationally. We expect over 500,000 visitors per annum when it's up and running: This level of tourism would generate badly needed economic development for Wicklow, Kilcoole, Newcastle and Greystones; The East Coast Greenway would provide an excellent amenity for the physical and mental health and wellbeing of all residents near the route; The Greenway would make a lot more people aware of the spectacular natural beauty of areas along the route along with the many and sometimes rare wildlife."

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Aoife Byrne, Aine Kavanagh, and Roisin Long are pictured at the Drink Wicklow Festival in Micky Finn's, Redcross.

Calls for review of halted N81 upgrade scheme

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has called on the Government to carry out a review of the halted N81 upgrade scheme in West Wicklow with a view of progressing it.

After questioning the Taoiseach on the need to process the shelved N81 upgrade scheme Deputy Brady said "Unfortunately all the statistics show that the N81 is one of the most dangerous roads in the State. This was also clearly shown in the recent analysis that was carried out by Gamma Location Intelligence when they showed that a segment of the N81 close to Poulaphouca Bride to be the county's most dangerous road segment. Tragically a recent fatality on the

N81 shows how dangerous the road is.

"In the Dáil I questioned the Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar and asked him to review the N81 Hollywood Cross to Tallaght Road Improvement Scheme with a view of progressing it. After completing a process of nearly 10 years which had identified a route for the 31km upgrade of the N81, the project was shelved by the government. It was cut from the National Development Plan, as a result the scheme won't even be considered until

2027 at the earliest.

"I asked the Taoiseach about the need for the N81 to be progressed and in his response quite remarkably he said he wasn't aware of the N81 upgrade scheme and would follow it up with the Minister and the officials in his department.

"Why isn't the scheme that has been shelved being pushed and given priority? We see announcements being made on other road projects, however the N81 Improvement Scheme has been shelved. Public safety is being jeopardised by the government's failure to progress the scheme, the fact that we have an absentee Minister for Transport and two ministers from Wicklow that are silent

on this issue, is completely disappointing. It is also letting the people of West Wicklow down.

"I will continue to push for this badly needed scheme so that the safety issues are addressed and to allow West Wicklow to develop properly."

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.

West Wicklow's Cllr Edward Timmins said earlier this month about the issue: "We feel we are being ignored and treated with contempt as councillors. Nothing is being done."

Public lighting faults cause concern with dark days ahead

Councillors from various Municipal Districts have expressed concerns about the number of public lights that are out, as we move into the darker days of winter.

At the recent October meeting of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Pat Kennedy warned that "last winter there were hundreds of lights out, and we are facing the same thing again this year right across the county".

Cllr Vincent Blake noted that there are housing estates in Carnew and Shillelagh that have been waiting for lighting for some time. "There are estates that were probably built ten years ago and have no lights ever since," said Cllr Blake. "They are sitting there, we are contacting the ESB and various different organisations. There are frustrated

residents. We are looking to put a bit of pressure on the ESB with the fact that we are heading into the winter months now and it will need to be rectified."

Cllr Steven Matthews said there are also problems with lighting in Bray: "As we are approaching winter, public lighting is going to become an issue again. A number of problems are down to the ESB not attending."

Cllr Matthews asked if the Chief Executive of the Council could liaise with the ESB "to try and get a more timely approach to deal with ESB and network faults".

In Wicklow Town, Cllr Gail Dunne observed that "We are coming into the dark season, the clock will be going back shortly and definitely in Wicklow Town there seems to be a lot of lights out. We need to put a big effort in at this time of year to make sure the lights are working."

In Kilcoole, Cllr Tom Fortune said "there was a survey done in the Kilcoole area a number of months ago, in regards to lights that were out, and there are four or five that are out. The ESB need to come in and physically carry out important work, they have been communi-

cated with, but it seems to have gone into a black hole and nothing is happening."

Speaking on the matter, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Frank Curran said "we certainly will follow it up with the ESB and Airtricity regarding Carnew and Shillelagh. In terms of percentages of lights out, our numbers are comparable to the rest of the country. We will have a scheme - the full replacement of the lighting with LED lights - which will help, but we can contact the ESB in relation to the issues."

Wicklow students awarded €20,000 scholarship by The Naughton Foundation

Wicklow student Ciara Fagan and Bray student Jack Lawlor were recently awarded a Naughton Foundation scholarship worth €20,000 at a ceremony in Trinity Business School in Dublin.

The award was presented by founding patrons of The Naughton Foundation, Dr. Martin Naughton and his wife Carmel who were joined by Mr. Paschal Donohue TD, Minister for Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform.

Supporting academic and innovative excellence in Irish students, this Scholarship Award is an investment in the future of Ireland's reputation as a country with outstanding graduates.

A former student of Dominican College, Ciara has accepted a place at Trinity College Dublin, studying Mathematics. Jack, a former student from Presentation College, Bray will be attending Trinity College Dublin and will be studying Theoretical Physics. They join 36 exceptional Irish students who were awarded third level scholarships towards their studies in the areas of engineering, science and technology.

Both Ciara's and Jack's former secondary schools, Dominican College and Presentation College were also presented with a prize of €1,000 on the day towards their school's science facilities, for their support of these students. More than 200 schools have benefited from this prize to date with some schools receiving it on more than one occasion.

Speaking about the growth of the programme over the past eleven years, Dr. Martin Naughton commented: "We started supporting students in their science and engineering studies in Louth, Meath and Monaghan in 2008 to give back to our local area. We never imagined what a wonderful community of connected young people the Naughton Scholarship program would become. It is heart-warming for us to read of their successes and how they are in turn giving back to society."

Since its establishment in 2008 scholarships worth over 4million have been awarded to nearly 300 students, the scheme started in three counties and has continued to expand annually to become a nationwide scheme in 2016. There is one guaranteed Scholarship (€20,000) for each participating county, with the exception of Cork and Dublin where there are two and four scholarships awarded respectively. Five additional Scholarships are also to be awarded. Each Scholarship is worth €5,000 per annum for each year of a student's three or four year undergraduate degree.

This year sees the Naughton Foundation also invest further in 'Science in a Box'. The program runs for sixth class pupils for 25 weeks of the primary school year with PhD students spending one hour each week co-teaching with the class teacher, a specific aspect of the science curriculum.



Pictured at the 2019 Naughton Foundation Scholarship awards at Trinity College Dublin are (l-r) Minister for Finance Paschal Donohue, winning scholar Ciara Fagan, Martin Naughton, winning scholar Jack Lawlor, and Carmel Naughton



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Woodenbridge World War I Memorial Park
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AT 2.00PM

Keynote Speaker: Deike Potzel,
German Ambassador to Ireland



Memorial Park Committee

New report details Council's performance in key service areas

The performance of Wicklow County Council in a number of key service areas is detailed in the Local Authority Performance Indicator Report 2018 which was published last week.

According to a report by the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC), Wicklow County Council had the lowest certified sick leave rate in the country in 2018.

The Council had 715 whole-time equivalent staff and just 2.51% of paid working days were lost to sickness or absence through medically certified leave.

The report contains statistics on the performance of 31 local authorities under 37 different performance indicators. It looks at areas such as Housing, Environment, Fire Service, Staff, Public Libraries, Technology & Social Media.

With regards to the Environment, the report found that just 8% of Co. Wicklow is unpolluted or litter-free (one of only six local authorities that was below 10% in this category), while 6% was classified as 'significantly polluted', the joint second-highest percentage in the country. 59%, meanwhile, was

classified as slightly polluted and 27% moderately polluted. 93.92% of drinking water in private schemes was in compliance with statutory requirements.

It found that Wicklow recorded the highest increase in expenditure on repair and maintenance of local authority houses from 2017 to 2018 compared to every other Local Authority. In private rented sector inspections, Wicklow was one of three counties which had failure rates of less than half of inspected dwellings not compliant with the standards regulations.

Wicklow was also among the five local authorities (excluding the 6 large urban authorities) which had the highest proportion of regional roads in the poorest rating category, with 10% of Wicklow's roads falling into this category. Less than a quarter of Wicklow's regional roads were given the PSCI (Pavement Surface Condition Index) rating of 9-10, meaning 'No Defects' or

less than 10% defective.

With regards to ICT expenditure (Information and Communications Technology) as a percentage of revenue expenditure, Wicklow's spend was the highest in the country, at 2.7%.

Regarding the Fire Service, it took an average of 5:16 minutes for the stations to mobilise fire brigades for calls to fires and 5:22 minutes for non-fire emergency incidents.

NOAC's chairman Michael McCarthy said that with this the fifth annual report on performance indicators individual local authorities have a very useful mechanism to view, track and improve on their own performance relative to that of other similar local authorities.

"Ultimately this will help improve their service to the public," he said. Data for the report was collected by the Local Government Management Agency on NOAC's behalf.



Valerie Heatley and Katrina Shine are pictured at the 40th anniversary party for Fishers of Newtownmountkennedy.

Ardmore Rovers to celebrate 40 year history

Ardmore Rovers, Bray's largest football club, is celebrating its 40 year history in an exciting and memorable event in the Esplanade hotel, Strand Road, Bray, on Saturday, November 2nd.

RTE's Soccer correspondent, Tony O'Donoghue, will MC a gala dinner that unites both past and present. The evening will kick off with a drinks reception, followed by a gourmet meal, then dance the night away to a soundtrack from the last 40 years. "It is a fantastic opportunity for us to celebrate a very rich and memorable past and look to continue to build towards an exciting future" says Club chairman Ciaran O'Connor. "What is incredible is the enduring legacy that this club continues to have in the region."

Tickets are available to buy from the club shop in Ballywaltrim Clubhouse this coming Saturday and Sunday from 10am until 1pm or alternatively you can book your tickets by emailing socialmedia@ardmorerovers.com.

Minister SIMON HARRIS

Dear Constituent,

Budget 2020 was published recently and I wanted to provide you with information about some measures which may be helpful for families in our county.

That means investing more in schools, housing, hospital, roads and public transport – an increase of 10pc on this year's spending. The Government is investing nearly **€2bn in rural Ireland in 2020** to protect jobs and ensure our communities have access to first class services and schools.

Children across Wicklow will benefit from improvements to education under Budget 2020. At over **€11 billion**, this is the highest ever allocation to the education sector and an **increase of nearly €2 billion** since 2016. This is a real sign of the priority this Government places on education and the ambition Fine Gael has for our country's future.

The increased funding will deliver supports to the children who need it most. As well as paying for **150 new mainstream teaching posts in schools**, there will be an **investment of €1.9 billion in special education**, providing over **400 additional teaching posts to support those with special educational needs** and hiring over **1,000 additional Special Needs Assistants (SNAs)**. With 17,000, we will have more SNAs in schools than ever before.

A further schools package will deliver supports for small schools and increases in the standard and enhanced capitation rates. There is **€1m for free school books in 50-plus primary schools**. We will provide an enhanced school meals programme, **providing hot meals for 30,000 children**.

Separately an additional **€81m has also been allocated to An Garda Síochána** which will add 700 new recruits. We will also see more civil staff recruited which will allow more Gardaí be freed up for frontline duty.

This Budget will also see a record level of investment in housing, with more than **€2.5bn allocated to housing**.

The cumulative effects of Budget 2020 will see vital investment in rural Ireland and Wicklow at a time when the country is facing unprecedented circumstances, creating jobs and building vibrant communities.

I will be circulating my Know Where You Stand Budget Information Leaflet in the coming weeks but if you have any questions please do get in contact.

As always you can email me at simon.harris@oir.ie

Best wishes,

Minister Simon Harris TD



A Better Deal for Families

Education: 1,600 extra school posts including 150 extra teachers, over 1,000 Special Needs Assistants, and 400 additional teachers for special educational needs. A 2.5% increase in capitation for schools; €74m for higher and further education. A €2bn increase since 2016.

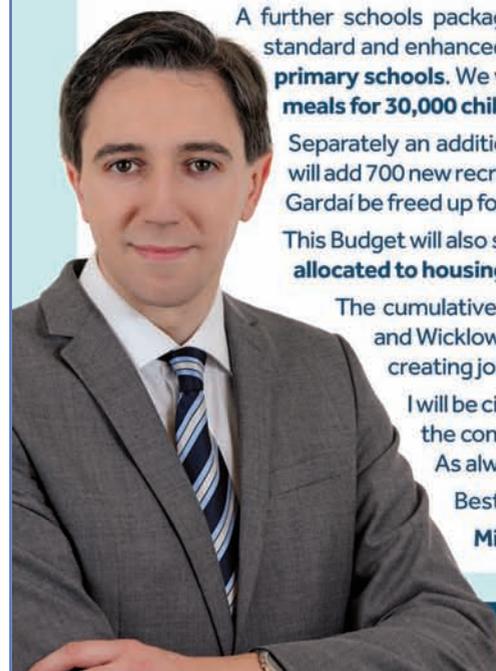
Childcare: 200,000 children now benefit from government childcare initiatives; increased thresholds for National Childcare Scheme (opens in November) to €60,000 net to benefit 7,500 more children. €100 rise in home carers tax credit to €1,600, up from €1,100 in 2017.

Healthcare: Free GP care for under-8s & free dental care for under-6s (both Sept 2020); more medical cards for over-70s, by increasing income thresholds, benefitting up to 56,000.

Justice: 700 additional Gardaí. After nearly 1,600 probationer Gardaí have attested since June 2017, meaning Garda Strength is now over 14,200.

Elderly: prescription charges for over 70s reduced to €1 from July; income limits for medical cards for over 70s will increase by €50 (€150 for a couple); Drug Payment Scheme threshold reduced by €10 to €114 p.m.; 1 million additional home care hours; 1,000 therapists, nurses and other professionals; €25m for the NTPF to reduce waiting lists; €5 p.w. increase in the Living Alone Allowance; increase in the fuel allowance by €2 p.w.

Vulnerable: increase earnings disregard for One Parent Family Payment and Jobseeker's Transition by €15; increase the Working Family Payment income threshold for families with up to 3 children by €10; increase in Qualified Child Allowance up €2 (u12s) or €3 (o12s); full Christmas bonus to be paid in December; increasing the hours that carers can work or study.



Contact me for advice, support or assistance on any matter. Bray Office: 01 281 3727 Email: simon.harris@oir.ie



Members of the Barndarrig PURE Mile group at the 2019 PURE Mile Gala Evening in the Brooklodge Hotel. See more on page 10

Wicklow organisations shortlisted for prestigious environmental awards

A Plus Service Centre, based in Bray, and Pure Project, based in Laragh, have both been shortlisted for 2019 Pakman Awards. Now in its 5th year, the national environmental awards celebrate sustainability champions who are putting innovative recycling and waste management practices into place across Ireland.

A Plus Service Centre has been shortlisted in the Tyre Champion category. A Plus Service Centre have been advocates for tyre recycling and have volunteered to assist Repak ELT in surveys and data collection for many years. Through all media communications, A Plus Service Centre also run their own annual weekend tyre road show at Tesco in Bray, highlighting safety and recycling.

The Pure Project is a partnership project and was established to combat illegal dumping and fly-tipping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands. Pure Project utilise a multi-disciplined approach, incorporating a number of enforcement and preventative measures including public reporting of dumping incidents, dedicated clean-up vehicle of illegal dumping, GPS/GIS recording of all dumping sites, covert CCTV, public awareness campaigns, environmental education initiatives. Since the establishment of Pure, the project has removed over 3,300 tonnes of illegal dumping from the Wicklow/Dublin

Uplands. If you were to put all this waste into standard household rubbish bags, it would fill over 400,000 bags. The winners of these categories will be announced at the 2019 Pakman Awards which takes place on October 24th in the Intercontinental Hotel, Dublin. Not only will A Plus Service Centre and Pure Project be in the running to take home top prize in their categories, they will also be eligible for the overall Pakman Award, the winner of which will also be announced at the awards ceremony. Commenting on the 2019 Pakman Awards finalists, Séamus Clancy, Repak CEO commented: "This

year, the number and quality of entries in the Pakman Awards surpassed all our expectations. The dedication and innovation shown by individuals and organisations across the country is amazing and makes a real difference to Ireland's environment. Now more than ever, Ireland needs environmental champions and we are looking for organisations, community groups and individuals to lead by example. We look forward to showcasing A Plus Service Centre's and Pure Project's environmental initiatives and hope that others will be inspired to follow their lead."

Illegal dumping at Adelaide Villas in Bray

Wicklow Sinn Féin TD John Brady has said that Wicklow County Council must take immediate action to clean up and halt the illegal dumping at the site in Bray where firefighters Brian Murray and Mark O'Shaughnessy died in 2007.

Deputy Brady said "For over six months now I have been reporting to the council illegal dumping that is taking place at the site where brave firefighters Brian Murray and Mark O'Shaughnessy died in 2007, while tackling a fire. Local residents from Little Bray have also been in touch with the council to report the dumping. Unfortunately no action has been taken to either stop the illegal dumping or have it cleaned up."

Deputy Brady continued "Unfortunately it seems absolutely no lessons have been learned since the devastating fire in 2007 when our brave firefighters Brian and Mark died. Prior to the fire in 2007, illegal dumping had been ongoing at the disused building at Adelaide Villas in Bray. No action had been taken by the council in addressing the illegal dumping at the site. Unfortunately, 12 years later the inaction by the council in tackling the problem is inconceivable."

Deputy Brady concluded "Immediate action needs to be taken by the council to ensure that the site is cleaned up and that the illegal dumping is halted. The council must engage with the owner of the site and immediate measures need to be taken to ensure the site is fully secured and cleaned. The people who are doing the illegal dumping must also be held to account for their actions and I would appeal to anyone who has any information about the dumping to bring it forward to the appropriate authorities."

Council remove illegally dumped waste from The Murrough

Wicklow County Council has cleaned up the large quantities of waste that had been dumped illegally at the Murrough in Wicklow Town.

The illegal dumping had been ongoing for a number of months at the environmentally protected area. It had been reported to the Environmental Protection Agency by John Brady TD. Deputy Brady said "I welcome moves by the council to finally cleanup the illegally dumped waste from the Murrough in Wicklow Town. Unfortunately the illegal dumping at the Murrough had been ongoing for a considerable period of time. Contractors have moved on site and commenced clearly the waste from the environmentally protected area. "I have been pressing the council for a number of months to take action to stop the dumping and have the site cleaned up for a

number of months, I'm glad that they have eventually now acted. Unfortunately due to the non action in addressing the serious illegal dumping at the environmentally protected area, I had to report it to the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Parks and Wildlife Service. That pressure now seems to have been critical in getting the council to finally act and have the site cleaned up. "The Murrough is not just a beautiful location that's widely used by many; it's also an environmentally important area. It is covered by National and European protection designations such as 'Special Protection Area', in 2018 it was designated a 'Special Area of Conservation',

the area is also a proposed 'National Heritage Area' and 'Flora Protection Order'. So the illegal dumping that's ongoing there is destroying a valuable public amenity and an environmentally important area." Deputy Brady concluded "Whilst I welcome the moves by the council to finally have the illegal dumping at the Murrough cleaned up, measures must be put in place to stop it happening again. Vehicular access to the area must be restricted and CCTV must also be installed to ensure we don't have this problem reoccurring. The perpetrators of this environmental vandalism must also be held to account and they must face the full rigours of the law."



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John Brady TD at the site of the illegally dumped waste at the Murrough

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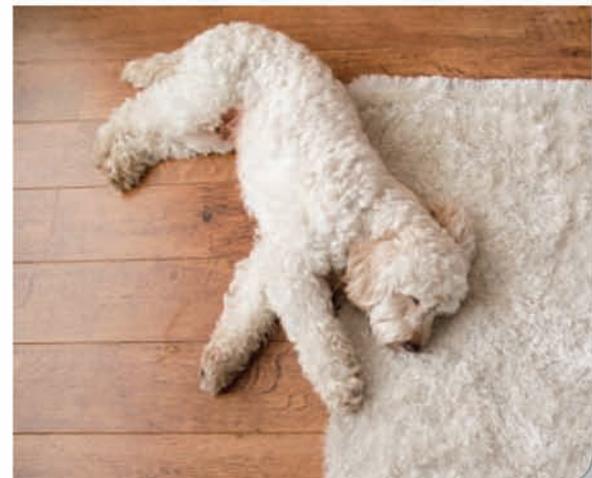


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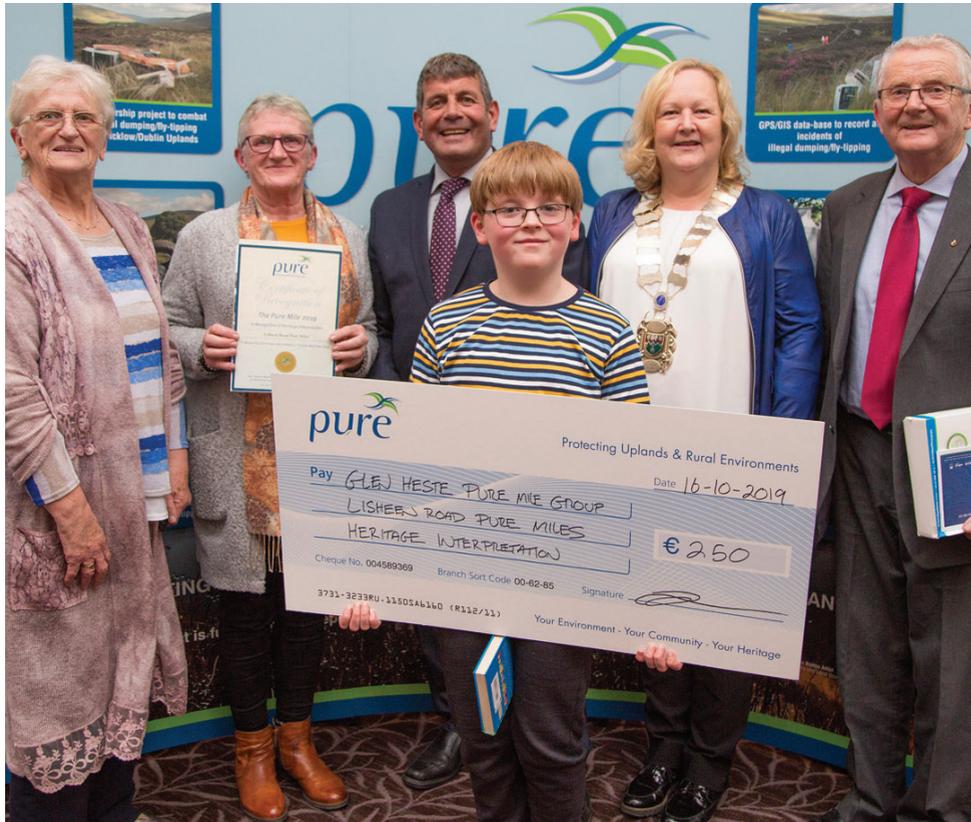
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10TH YEAR OF THE PURE MILE

The Pure Mile, an environmental initiative which aims to create a greater awareness of the countryside of Wicklow and South Dublin, had its annual Gala Evening on Wednesday 16th October at The Brooklodge Hotel, Macreddin, Auhgrim.



Ita Donohue, Tina Cruise, Oisín Lawlor and Aidan Cruise of the Glen Heste/Lishee Road PURE Mile Group, are pictured with Minister Andrew Doyle and Cathaoirleach Irene Winters at the 10th annual PURE Mile Awards in the Brooklodge Hotel.

The Pure Mile Project encourages groups in Wicklow and South Dublin to adopt a mile of road, or miles of road, in their local area, or in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands and organise litter picks, clean-ups, and anti-dumping campaigns. The Gala Evening is an opportunity for all of the Pure Mile Groups to meet for one night, in one room, and celebrate all of

their hard work and achievements in Cleaning Up The Wicklow/Dublin Uplands, and for Pure to thank them all. Over 100 certificates of participation were presented by Mr. Andrew Doyle, T.D., Minister of State for Food, Forestry and Horticulture, and the Cathaoirleach for Wicklow County Council, Cllr. Irene Winters. 2019 was the tenth year

of the Pure Mile, and this year over 100 communities, groups, scouts, beavers, primary schools, walking groups, cycling groups, businesses and organisations, collectively improved and enhanced over 550 miles of roads, mountains, valleys, forestries, woodlands, and upland amenities, with the removal of tonnes of illegal dumping and litter from the

Wicklow/Dublin Uplands. The groups ranged from all over Wicklow and South Dublin, and each one received a Pure Mile Certificate, a selection of native Irish trees, and all will be included in the popular Pure Mile Calendar, which will be launched in November. Ian Davis, Pure Project Manager commented on the night,

"The Pure Mile has grown every year and in 2019 we had over 2,500 volunteers involved in the project. We had some major clean-ups this year which resulted in the removal of over 4,000 bags of rubbish and illegal dumping from the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands. It's amazing the amount of time, effort, and enthusiasm that groups invest in the Pure Mile. All of the people involved in the Pure Mile make a huge difference to the areas they live in or recreate in, and it's an absolute pleasure meeting them, and getting to know them."

There were a number of Certificates of Recognition presented on the night with cash prizes reaching a total of €5,500.

Funding for Pure is scheduled to end in December this year, however, the project

recently submitted a project evaluation and submission of extension to the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, and they are confident that they will receive further funding to continue the project and their various initiatives.

Project Manager of Pure, Ian Davis, stated "Pure was launched in 2006 and since that date it has proven extremely successful. We are the first project of its kind in Ireland and I would like to thank, the Department of Environment, Wicklow County Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, South Dublin County Council, Coillte, National Parks & Wildlife Service, and the Wicklow Uplands Council, for their continued support."

Speaking at the 10th Annual PURE Mile Awards, Minister Andrew Doyle recognised and praised the important, valuable and extensive work achieved since the start of this project and he acknowledged the vast voluntary effort which contributes to its ongoing success.

"I am delighted to present the awards for the 2019 Pure Mile initiative, which tackles the issue of illegal dumping in our countryside and encourages communities and groups to keep roads litter free as well as encouraging groups to research information about local wild flowers, plants, trees, and animals, built/cultural/social heritage, history and folklore of



Aisling Cullen and Winnie Phelan of the Ballinaclash PURE Mile group with PURE Project Manager Ian Davis at the 2019 PURE Mile Gala Evening in the Brooklodge Hotel.

their area.

"The PURE Project is a partnership project and is the first of its kind in Ireland which incorporated statutory and non-statutory organisations. Launched in September 2006 and now enhancing and improving over 550 miles of road, mountains, forests, woodlands, upland amenities and beaches it has proven to be a very successful model with over 11,000 individual reports of dumping to date and some 3,300 tonnes of waste removed from the landscape.

"There are over 80 community groups in Wicklow including primary schools, busi-

nesses, cycling groups and organisations collectively working on this with an estimated 2500 volunteers involved in this year's project.

"This is a phenomenal achievement, and one which Wicklow should be extremely proud of. It shows what can be accomplished by collective community effort and resolve and I would like to congratulate all involved for the last 10 years and hopefully their great work will continue."

Anyone interested in the 2020 Pure Mile competition can request an application form and information pack by emailing info@purepro-

ject.ie or it can be downloaded from www.pureproject.ie/the-pure-mile/. You can also write to; Pure Project, Wicklow Mountains, National Park, Kilafin, Laragh, A98 K286, and they will post out all the information or request an application form and information pack by phoning Pure on 0404 45547. Further information on Pure can be found on pureproject.ie

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Carmel Spillane, Carol Heavey, and Anne Nolan of the Stratford on Slaney PURE Mile group at the 2019 PURE Mile Gala Evening in the Brooklodge Hotel.



Maurice Wallis with Tom, Joe, and Danute McNamara of the Atha Cliath/Glenree Walking Groups at the 2019 PURE Mile Gala Evening in the Brooklodge Hotel.



Congratulations to ST. PATRICK'S GAA CLUB



St Patricks 0-9 | AGB 0-7

St Patrick's of Wicklow Town are the Champions of Co. Wicklow having overcome AGB of Arklow in the Senior Football Championship in Glenealy, to claim the Miley Cup.

The win was a significant one for St. Pat's, earning them their first back-to-back senior titles in almost 60 years, and a strong, determined display from Arklow Geraldines Ballymoney ensured that such a monumental achievement was not secured easily.

Just two points separated the sides at the end, no disappointment for those who expected a tight game with both teams going into the final unbeaten on their respective journeys.

In the early stages of the game, however, the St Pat's fans might have been forgiven for thinking they could be in for a relaxing, comfortable afternoon, with their team establishing a 0-05 to 0-01 lead. By half-time, though, such thoughts had been dis-

pelled as the lead was cut down to two-points (0-05 to 0-03), and soon into the second half AGB drew level.

By then, St Pat's were surely kicking themselves for not making more of their early dominance, but they dug deep and regained their lead to make it 0-08 to 0-06 midway through the second half. It was a fierce contest, albeit a low-scoring one, with AGB reducing the lead to just a single point at one stage, and creating enough chances to win it themselves, but it's testament to the superb defending and determination of Casey O'Brien's side that they never fell behind. A late point from St. Pat's in injury time meant that those St. Pat's supporters could breathe easy once again.

The Miley Cup was presented to St. Patrick's Captain Stephen Duffy by County Chairman Martin Fitzgerald, and the 'Man of the Match' award went to the St. Pat's centre half back Conor Ffrench for a commanding performance from the back.

St. Pat's now will go to on to the Leinster campaign with confidence.



St Pat's supporters Mila and Fianait Duffy at the Senior Football Final in Aughrim, where St. Pat's of Wicklow Town beat AGB from Arklow.



'Rivals unite': Mary Duffy from Wicklow Town and Anne Healy from Arklow at the Senior Football Championship final

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One of Spain's leading tour operators, Tourmundial, and a group of travel agents working with Viajes El Corte Inglés - the tour operating arm of Spanish retailing giant El Corte Inglés - were visiting Wicklow last week as guests of Tourism Ireland and Fáilte Ireland. The travel professionals were here to experience at first-hand the wealth of things to see and do here for Spanish holidaymakers. One of the highlights of their action-packed itinerary was a guided tour of Russborough House in Blessington.

Barbara Wood, Tourism Ireland's Manager Spain, said: "We were delighted to invite these influential Spanish travel professionals to Wicklow and Ireland this week. Their visit is an excellent opportunity to showcase our superb tourism offering. Seeing is believing - and our aim is that when they return home, they will be even more enthusiastic about the destination, helping to secure a greater share of their business for Ireland."

Pictured are Susan Bolger, Tourism Ireland (left); tour guide Cecilia Ferrari (right); and the Spanish travel professionals, during their visit to Russborough House.

David Rowan announced as keynote speaker at inaugural Mid East Regional Innovation Conference

Wicklow Local Enterprise Office is partnering with Meath, Kildare & Carlow Local Enterprise Offices to present the Mid-East Regional Innovation Conference, taking place on Thursday 31st October at the Osprey Hotel, Naas, County Kildare.

The event is to celebrate the thriving culture of innovation that exists throughout the Mid-East Region, and to recognise the increased demand on the Mid East Local Enterprise Offices from the emerging technology sector for support in their development and the increase in demand from small businesses for support in innovation.

Headlining the event is David Rowan, world renowned speaker, innovation expert and author of best-selling *Non-Bullshit Innovation: Radical Ideas from the World's Smartest Minds*. David tells a story of transformation through innovation and how companies have found new ways of doing things through innovation driven by ruthless entrepreneurial imagination. Having taken 130 flights in the past year on a quest to find genuine innovation inside successful companies, David has investigated the organisations and entrepreneurs that are changing our world - spending time with the founders of WhatsApp, LinkedIn, Google, Didi,

Spotify, Xiaomi, Nest, Twitter, and collecting together some inspiring stories.

Speaking in advance of the event David said "Too many organisations think "innovation" can be left to a specialist department, or acquired through hackathons and startup accelerators. I can offer guidance on specific approaches to innovation that work, from insights I've gained through experience working with the companies and entrepreneurs that are changing our world. I look forward to sharing these insights with you at the Mid-East Regional Innovation Conference this October".

The event will also host disruptive e-commerce and social media entrepreneur, Seánie Walsh. Discover the true power of digital marketing and e-commerce, and explore the social media landscape with the Castlebar native and Creative Director of Los Angeles based, Business Rockstars. Seánie is unlike any other 25-year-old in this space and is recognised as one of the world's leading

Click Funnels experts. From the age of 13 he has been a highly successful disruptive e-commerce and social media entrepreneur and is also a partner and Creative Director in V353.

Attendees will explore 'Supporting Innovation in the Commercial World' with agency speakers from Maynooth University, Carlow IT and UCD. Speakers from Enterprise Ireland, Grant Thornton and Local Enterprise Offices will highlight the range of Financial supports available to SME's.

Jacqui McNabb, Head of Enterprise for Local Enterprise Office Kildare said: "We're very excited to be hosting such a high caliber line up of speakers at the Mid-East Regional Innovation Conference this year. It's a really good opportunity for the businesses in the Mid-East to hear directly from David, Seánie and our other guest speakers on their approach to innovation"

Vibeke Delahunt, Head of Enterprise for Local Enterprise Office Wicklow stated:

"Innovation is the key to survival for every business, no matter how small. This must attend event is a great opportunity for our clients to engage with top innovators in their field as this is a celebration of the innovative spirit that we see in the Mid-East Region. The Local Enterprise Offices across the country strive for innovation in every region, so this is a very exciting event to be a part of."

The Regional Innovation Conference is taking place on Thursday 31st of October at the Osprey Hotel, Naas, County Kildare from 8am to 1pm. You can access tickets on the Local Enterprise Office Kildare Website or by following the link: <http://bit.ly/LEOInnovation2019>.

Guaranteed to engage, empower and inspire aspiring entrepreneurs across the region, this is an event not to be missed.

For more information, Vibeke Delahunt, Tel: 0404 30800, enterprise@leo.wicklowco.ie

Young Wicklow filmmaker is making his mark

It has almost been a year since Wicklow native Sean Treacy took home the title of Ireland's Young Filmmaker of the Year 2019 at the Fresh International Film Festival.

The 15-year-old took home the title for his film 'RUE', a story about a boy who regrets his last words to his best friend. Since then, the talented youngster has reached international recognition, as his short films have been screened all over the world.

Speaking about his love for film, Sean said, "I simply have a love for art, because I love expressing emotions in different forms, and film is my favourite way of doing so."

'RUE' has gone on to be selected for three international film festivals in Brazil, Serbia and just recently Norway. In Norway, it will be screened at the opening ceremony.

His other short film, 'SPARK' has also been recently selected to take part in the 'Up and Coming' Hanover International Film Festival, after being selected in the top 150 out of over 4,000 submissions. This festival is one of the oldest and highest regarded in the sector, focussing on young filmmakers as artists and emerging professionals, with the age range expanding up to 27. 'SPARK' has also been selected for four other international film festivals in Georgia, Brazil, Serbia, and Poland. The results from these festivals will be announced in the following months.

Speaking about winning Young Filmmaker of the Year, he said, "I was really honoured and chuffed that it was my film that won. It's one of the actors and I worked really hard on, I couldn't have done it without them, and they were amaz-

ing. I can't thank the Fresh Film enough for organising the whole event, it was just fantastic!"

Sean has a huge presence on social media, in particular, YouTube, with his personal channel 'Stellar' having over 24 thousand subscribers. On this channel, he documents journeys in his personal life, with video titles such as 'Going Vegan For 100 Days', 'Solving Anxiety' and 'Finding My Tribe'. Sean also has a filmmaking account containing his award-winning short films with over 4 thousand subscribers.

Over the summer, Sean embarked on a new challenge by co-presenting a TV show produced by Tailor Films in association with RTE. It is a children's bedroom makeover show called 'Ace My Space' in which Sean and his other co-presenter travel across Ireland as they redesign children's bedrooms based on their passions. The ten-episode series is set to start playing on RTE 2 every weekend from November to December.

As if that wasn't enough, he was also scouted for a week-long intensive summer camp, 'Prodigy Camp', which is designed for the most promising young filmmakers and songwriters in the world.

Located in Washington, Sean had attended the camp before, thanks to Fresh International Film Festival. Filmmaker Rick Stevenson and the Prodigy Camp staff hand-selected 20 of the most talented teens between the ages of 13 and 18 to

come to camp from all across the world. At camp, Sean made a documentary about up and coming to musician Nathan Nzanga, which he plans on releasing later this year.

Sean said, "At this camp, I learned an immense amount about my craft, but also about myself. This is a camp where I am surrounded by people who have a similar if not the same passion as me, and so the creative energy which I was immersed in was genuinely life-changing. Both times, it really was an incredible experience."

Currently, he is in the production stage of his next short film. He is directing the film and will also be starring as the lead for the first time ever. The film will move into the post-production stage in two weeks, with the final product planning to be ready in November.

Sean said, "This has made the short film a completely new experience for me, and it is one I have thoroughly enjoyed so far. The cast and crew have been so hard-working and helpful that it really has been a blast so far."

While Sean is only a fourth-year student in secondary school, he has already made an impressive name for himself in the film industry, with many more interesting projects on the way. He credits his success to his start with the Fresh International Film Festival.

The call for entries for Ireland's Young Filmmaker of the Year 2020 is now open. The closing date for entries is Friday, January 24, 2020.



Sean Treacy pictured after winning Ireland's Young Filmmaker of the Year Award with Jayne Foley, founder of Fresh International Film Festival, and comedian Pat Shortt.



Halloween is just around the corner, a celebration of everything spooky! Kids love to don the witches hats and scary masks and make a night of trick or treating in their local estates.

However, there is a lot more to Halloween than bobbing for apples and things that go bump in the night and believe it or not the celebration actually has Irish roots.

To find the origin of Halloween, you have to look to the festival of Samhain in Ireland's Celtic past. Samhain had three distinct elements. Firstly, it was an important fire festival, celebrated over the evening of 31st October and throughout the following day. The flames of old fires had to

be extinguished and ceremonially re-lit by druids.

It was also a festival not unlike the modern New Year's Day in that it carried the notion of casting out the old and moving into the new.

To our pagan ancestors it marked the end of the pastoral cycle, a time when all the crops would have been gathered and placed in storage for the long winter ahead and when livestock would be brought in from the fields and selected for slaughter or breeding.

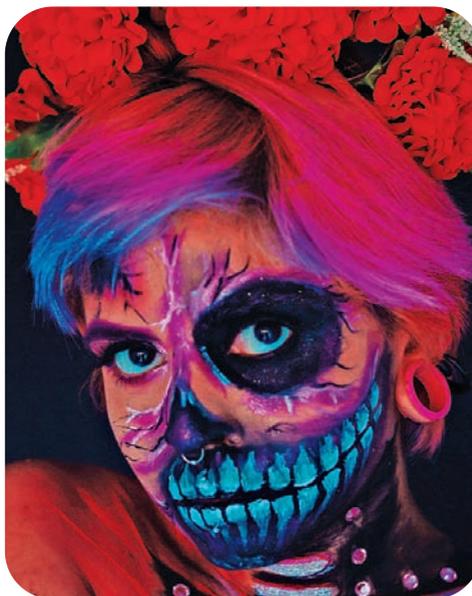
But it was also, as the last day of the year, the time when the souls of the departed would return to their former homes and when potentially malevolent spirits were released from the Otherworld and were visible to mankind.

The Celts celebrated four major festivals each year. None of them was connected in anyway to the sun's cycle. The origin of Halloween lies in the Celt's Autumn festival which was held on the first day of the 11th month, the month known as November in English but as Samhain in Irish.

The festivals are known by other names in other Celtic countries but there is usually some similarity, if only in the translation. In Scottish Gaelic, the autumn festival is called Samhuinn. In Manx it is Sauin. The root of the word - sam - means summer, while fuin means end. And this signals the idea of a seasonal change rather than a notion of worship or ritual.

The other group of Celtic languages (known as Q-Celtic) have very different words but a similar intention. In Wales, the day is Calan Gaeaf, which means the first day of winter. In Brittany, the day is Kala Goanv, which means the beginning of November.

The Celts believed that the passage of a day began with darkness and progressed into the light. The same notion explains why Winter ? the season



of long, dark nights ? marked the beginning of the year and progressed into the lighter days of spring, summer and autumn. So the 1st of November, Samhain, was the Celtic New Year, and the celebrations began at sunset of the day before, ie its Eve.

For Celts, Samhain was a spiritual time, but with a lot of confusion thrown into the mix. Being 'between years' or 'in transition', the usually fairly stable boundaries between the Otherworld and the human world became less secure so that puka, banshees, fairies and other spirits could come and go quite freely. There were also 'shape shifters' at large. This is where the dark side of Halloween originated.

Samhain marked the end of the final harvest of the summer, and all apples had to have been picked by the time the day's feasting began. It was believed that on Samhain, the puca or 'Irish evil fairies' spat on any unharvested apples to make them inedible.

Celtic tales are full of heroic warriors and mystical gods. They are also the origin of Halloween's (and Ireland's) preoccupation with the 'little people'.

The Banshee is another fairy, always female, who warns of approaching death by letting loose a terrible, eerie wail (the Banshee scream) that is guaranteed to send a shiver down the spine of those that hear it. If you hear the cry of the Banshee of Ireland, you should look out for a funeral carriage pulled by a headless horse.

Since humans could see these spirits on this night, they might try to appease them, but could easily fall foul of them by committing an unexplained discourtesy. The spirits were

peel was allowed to drop to the floor as it was peeled, it would form the initial letter of the lucky spouse.

Apples also featured in the 'ducking for apples' game where the object is to retrieve an apple from a barrel or large bowl of water without using hands or feet. There was nothing particularly symbolic about the origin of Halloween games such as these. They are fun games in which all ages can participate, and apples were plentiful at this time of the year.

A ring (and sometimes a thimble, too) were mixed into a large bowl of this warming, simple dish which was placed in the middle of the table. Each person sitting around the table took a spoonful of the potato and cabbage mixture, dipping it into the well of melted butter at its centre. The person who found the ring was sure to be married within the year. The thimble, when used, denoted life without love and marriage.

The origin of Halloween 'trick or treating' seems to have been a Druid ritual of collecting eggs, nuts and apples from the individual homes of the community. These offerings were meant to bring some protection from bad luck such as damage to crops or livestock in the next year. Those that were miserly in their offerings were likely to have a trick played on them. These pranks were harmless enough, but intended to cause confusion ie changing the direction a gate opened.



Avoid a face paint mishap this Halloween

If parents do decide to allow their kids wear face paints, Dermatology Nurse Specialist, Selene Daly has these tips for minimising the risk of damage:

- Do not wear it for too long and never wear it to bed.
- Use make-up remover for sensitive skin to clean it off - avoid using baby wipes.
- Moisturise the skin after you have cleaned the paint off to help it recover.
- If your child suffers any irritation from the face paints, don't take any chances, remove it from the skin and don't use it again.
- Consult your Pharmacist or Doctor if you have any concerns about a reaction to face paints.

Wicklow County Council is asking everyone to help by following a few sensible rules:

- * Do not leave material lying around that may be taken for a bonfire; many garage or garden shed items such as petrol, white spirits, diesel, aerosols, batteries, tins of paint, bottles and tyres are extremely dangerous if set on fire
- * Parents, business and householders should not provide any materials for bonfires.
- * Do not facilitate illegal bonfires or firework displays on or near your home or property
- * Explain the dangers of illegal fireworks and bonfires to children and teenagers
- * Stay a safe distance from bonfires and fireworks - wind can carry sparks long distances and can cause permanent injuries and scars
- * Stay with your children and escort them on "trick or treat" visits, parties and events
- * Do not buy, use or supply fireworks
- * Respect the work of the Emergency Services, Council Staff and the Garda
- * Keep pets indoors on Halloween night
- * Above All - Be Safe and Stay Safe
- * Contact the Fire Brigade by calling 999 or 112 if you see a bonfire being lit close to buildings, trees, overhead cables, underground services or car parking areas.



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 October 26, 2019 - October 28, 2019

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 • Wizard Party in the Forest • Halloween Arts & Crafts
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Paul, Lynda, and Lauren Burke at the Drink Wicklow Festival in Micky Finn's, Redcross.

'Funding to reinstate the coastal walk at Arklow North Beach must be prioritised'

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has said that funding to reinstate the currently closed coastal walk at Arklow North Beach must be prioritised by the Government.

Deputy Brady said "The popular coastal walk at North Beach, Arklow has remained closed since it was badly damaged in Storm Ophelia. During the storm large sections of the walk were washed away when the coastal defences were breached. The council had no choice but to close the walk to the public due to concerns for public safety.

"Coastal protection is also need to be addressed at the North Beach and Wicklow County Council in conjunction with Irish Rail is in the process of completing a study of the entire Wicklow coastline using funding from the OPW. Completing this report and getting funding for any improved coastal defences will be a timely process. Keeping the coastal walk closed indefinitely simply isn't an option, so government must give priority to getting it reopened."

Deputy Brady continued "In parallel with coastline study the council have made an application to the Department of Rural and Community Development for funding under the Outdoor Recreation and Infrastructure Scheme, this has been done through the Wicklow Partnership."

Deputy Brady concluded "I have been consistently raising the need for funding to improve the coastal protection along with the reopening of the walk at North Beach, Arklow with Minister Boxer Moran. On foot of an invitation from me he visited Arklow in 2017 to inspect the damage. I welcome that a study is now in the process of being carried out; this is with a view of addressing improved coastal protection. We now need them to follow through with immediate funding so that the severely damaged coastal walkway at North Beach can reopen for use by the public."

SOLAS shines a spotlight on further education and training opportunities

A new campaign has been launched by SOLAS, the Further Education and Training Authority in partnership with ETBI, to showcase further education and training (FET) and to promote FET opportunities in Wicklow and around the country.

The 'This is FET' campaign is centred around a new website, thisisfet.ie, which tells the stories of learners, graduates and employers about the positive impact FET has had on their careers and businesses. Information about the diverse range of FET courses can also be found on the website.

As part of the campaign, images from the website have been projected and hung from some of Ireland's most iconic buildings including Wicklow County Council, Liberty Hall in Dublin and the Rock of Cashel.

Commenting at the launch of 'This is FET', Nikki Gallagher, Director of Communications and Secretariat at SOLAS, said "it is brilliant to hear so many FET success stories. We know the positive impact FET can have on the lives of individual learners, businesses and communities in Wicklow and around Ireland. We're calling on the people of Wicklow to check out This is FET to get a flavour of the type of courses available to them, whether through Kildare and Wicklow ETB or surrounding providers. No matter where you are in your education or your career, FET courses offer flexible, life-long learning."

Nessa White, General Secretary at ETBI said: "Through the extensive ETB network, we can ensure that FET has a presence in every town and every community in Ireland. Not only does this mean that FET is easy to access, it also means that we are close to and responsive to the needs of the community."

Thisisfet.ie is a collaboration between SOLAS and the ETBs and aims to be an information hub as well as showcasing the achievements and success of FET learners.

ALONE reach out to older people living in poverty

ALONE, the organisation that supports older people to age at home, is encouraging people to be mindful of older people in our society who may be experiencing financial difficulty and even living in poverty.

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty was last Thursday, and ALONE seized the occasion to urge any older person who may be experiencing financial difficulties to reach out to them to ask for support.

Many older people in today's society may find themselves struggling financially, and poverty is a reality for some. Currently the poverty line in Ireland is €252.11; however, older people receiving the Contributory Pension receive €248.30 per week.

"Ultimately, the gap between rich and poor is getting wider," said ALONE CEO Seán Moynihan. "Most of us will be reliant on the State pension as we get older and we don't see this changing any time soon. But this is simply not enough for someone to live on securely."

Other issues include difficulties maintaining

housing standards, paying utility bills, transport costs in rural areas, and the cost of home supports. Some older people ALONE that work with have to cut out essentials to ensure their budgets balance - for example, by waiting until their home gets too cold to manage before putting on the heating, or staying in bed to save on fuel costs. As our population gets older, with more people living in unstable rented accommodation, it is likely that even more older people will experience financial hardship. When living on 252.11 per week, difficult choices must be made and any unforeseen bills or expenses can result in older people having to rely on charitable organisations for support.

As an organisation, ALONE endeavours to support older people experiencing these difficulties and assist them when they need it most.

The organisation was disappointed in Budget 2020, due to the lack of support for older people in the areas of pensions, home supports and the rise in the carbon tax. They had hoped that the state pension would be increased by €7 - €9 this year, in order bring the pension up to 35% of average earnings, which would help older people to become more financially secure.

"Financial difficulties are the third most common issue experienced by older people who come to ALONE for support," said ALONE CEO Seán Moynihan. "This includes older people living without indoor bathroom facilities and in unsafe housing conditions, who are experiencing financial abuse, and who cannot manage to pay their monthly expenses, many of whom had been struggling for some time before approaching

ALONE for support. At ALONE, we work with people who are experiencing these difficulties and support them to overcome them. It is vital that the public at large recognise that there are many older people who are living in poverty."

He continued: "This Thursday, on International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, help us take positive steps towards eliminating poverty among older people in Ireland. ALONE staff work with older people every day who are experiencing financial hardship, and we create individualised support plans for each person," he concluded. "For any older person who may be experiencing financial difficulties today, we are encouraging you to reach out to ALONE and to talk about it. Support is available and poverty and financial difficulties are not something that anyone has to experience alone."

Student accommodation needed - do you have a spare room?

Social Democrats Candidate for Wicklow, Cllr. Jennifer Whitmore has highlighted an initiative of UCD Students Union, who are hoping to encourage homeowners in Wicklow, in particular Bray and Greystones, to rent any spare room they may have to students.

Cllr Whitmore said "We are all acutely aware of the housing crisis that we are experiencing in the country. This impacts different people in so many different ways.

"One group that have been hit hard by the lack of suitable accommodation and the high cost of rentals are students hoping to attend university in Dublin. In fact, many students have had to either give up their university courses because they cannot afford to move to Dublin, or have to commute long distances from other counties.

"I have recently worked with UCD Students Union to highlight their 'Spare Room' initiative, which outlines the benefits to homeowners of renting a room to students during term time. They are particularly interested in reaching out to homeowners in areas with good public transport links to UCD, such as Bray.

"Providing digs for students can have many advantages for homeowners, in particular it offers a way to earn some additional income. And under the Government's 'Rent a Room' scheme, homeowners can earn up to €14,000 per year tax-free."

Cllr Whitmore concluded "If you are interested or would like to find out more, UCD SU have a website where you can get more information at ucdsu.ie/supports/spare-room/ or email accommodation@ucdsu.ie



Cllr Jennifer Whitmore, pictured with Katie O'Dea and Una Carroll, UCD Students Union.

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Wicklow celebrates biggest ever National Women's Enterprise Day

The largest-ever programme of events for National Women's Enterprise Day took place across the country last week on October 17th. An annual initiative of the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs), including LEO Wicklow, the theme for this year's event was 'Making It Happen' with the aim of inspiring more women in Ireland to start and grow their own business.



Pictured at the Local Enterprise Office Wicklow's National Women's Enterprise Day 2019 in Ballyknocken House and Cookery School were Kim Smyllie, Margaret Meagher, Ann McLoughlin and Maria Klyne. Pic: Joe Keogh

The networking event for entrepreneurs in Co. Wicklow took place at beautiful Ballyknocken Cookery School, Ashford. Over 40 local female entrepreneurs and businesswomen participated and enjoyed facilitated networking, while cooking Italian antipasti with the fabulous Catherine Fulvio. Later, Catherine delivered a motivational talk on her rise from local B&B owner to celebrity chef, emphasising how she made it happen, tying in with the theme of NWED 2019 which is 'Making it Happen'.

National Women's Enterprise Day was officially opened by Pat Breen T.D., Minister of State for Trade, Employment, Business, EU Digital Single Market and Data Protection, who attended the Dublin event in Fingal. He said: "It is important for Ireland as a country that there should be a far greater participation of females in our entrepreneurial landscape and it is very positive to see the stats moving in the right direction. Events like National Women's Enterprise Day play a key role in continuing that momentum. Ireland has a marvellous entrepreneurial culture that is evident across the world and we need more females to become part of the journey. Today is about celebrating those who have already done it and encouraging others to take the first step. I would encourage all budding female entrepreneurs to contact their Local Enterprise Office and check out the range of supports that are available."

us the opportunity to highlight the success stories of women in County Wicklow, who continue to do amazing things in business, across every sector. The day itself is also an opportunity for businesswomen to network, engage, share tips and advice and to find out what supports are available for their business through their Local Enterprise Office."

National Women's Enterprise Day has grown year-on-year with 17 events taking place across the country with over 1,700 female entrepreneurs in attendance. This growth in popularity has been reflected in the national growth in female entrepreneurship across the country. There was an 18% increase in female entrepreneurs taking Local Enterprise Office training programmes last year as almost 22,000 female entrepreneurs and busi-

nesswomen engaged with their LEO on supports in 2018. The latest Global Entrepreneurship Monitor report for Ireland also shows that nearly 40% of new business owners in 2018 were women.

National Women's Enterprise Day is just one of the initiatives of the Local Enterprise Offices aimed at fostering entrepreneurship and assisting companies to start up and grow. Others include Local Enterprise Week, the National Enterprise Awards, the Student Enterprise Programme, Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur (IBYE), Local Enterprise Showcase in the RDS and the Local Enterprise Village at the National Ploughing Championships.

Local Enterprise Offices in local authorities are funded by the Government of Ireland through Enterprise Ireland.

Dublin Mint Office partners with iconic artist to launch free medal

The Dublin Mint Office has launched a new medal in partnership with Jim FitzPatrick to celebrate our Irish Myths and Legends. The medal will be available free to the public.

The medal depicts Jim's original artwork of Ériu, the mythological matron goddess of Ireland, from whose name the word Éire evolved. According to Irish mythology, the first people to arrive in Ireland were greeted by the goddess and her sisters, Banba and Fódla. Ériu asked that the land be named after her, as a gift from the invaders.

The other side of the medal displays a Celtic design. Both images are the works of the famed Irish artist Jim FitzPatrick, who is renowned for presenting Celtic mythology in vivid colour.

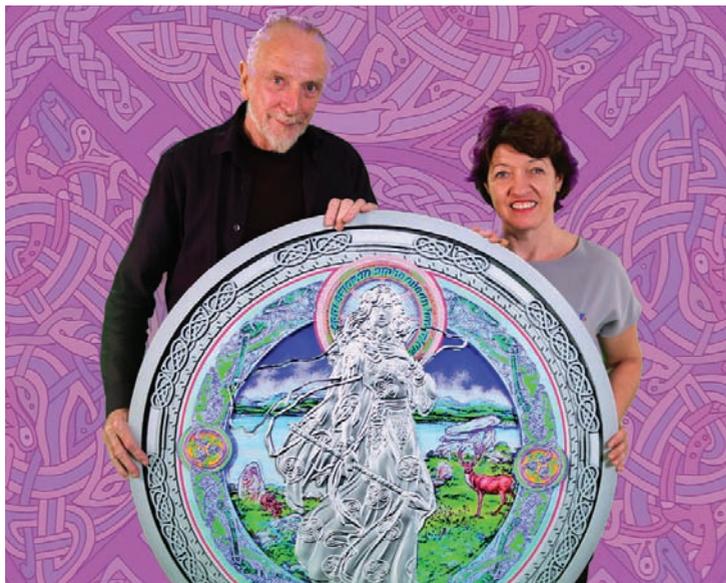
Artist Jim FitzPatrick said: "It is incredibly gratifying for me as an artist to see my work reproduced in a three-dimensional medal form. This will help people to connect with the legends which have been passed down from generation to genera-

tion and form a vital part of our culture and identity. From a young age, I collected comic books, stamps and coins with a major Celtic myths and legends fascination which is why this partnership with The Dublin Mint Office is a perfect fit and has been two years in the works."

Irish Myths and Legends is a very popular theme across the country, and was voted for by The Dublin Mint Office customers during a customer survey.

Spokesperson of The Dublin Mint Office Kathy Clarke said: "We are thrilled to be partnering with the talented artist, Jim FitzPatrick. His beautiful designs have brought joy to Irish people for decades and we are very proud to see his work immortalised forever on this medal. We are continuously striving to provide our collectors with medals they will enjoy and feel a connection with, and we are proud to offer a medal that was so highly voted for by our customers."

The Ériu medal is free (+€3.95 postage) with no further commitments.



Artist Jim FitzPatrick with Kathy Clarke, Country Manager for The Dublin Mint Office, holding a model of the free Myths and Legends Medal from The Dublin Mint Office, which features Jim FitzPatrick's design of the Celtic Goddess Ériu



New art piece commissioned in People's Park

The Bray Municipal District Council have commissioned a new public art piece in the People's Park. The artwork is a comment on how the everyday actions of humanity contribute to the damage of our ecosystem.

Toxins leach into wildlife and threaten the intrinsic biodiversity of our earth. The design is a vivid reminder of the universality of pollution and was produced by Subset, who are a collection of artists, designers and filmmakers based in Dublin. This is the town's fifth public art installation and it is hoped that it will build on the Brave Maeve Story Trail's award-winning success.

Clr Steven Matthews, Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District said, "Bray is a strong supporter of the arts and by commissioning public art installations throughout the town strengthens this message. This latest piece of art attempts to raise awareness about how humans have had a significant impact on the world's ecosystem health and vitality. Street art is something you really need to see in person, and I would urge locals and visitors alike to take a trip to see this incredible installation up close and personal."

SUBSET are a collection of artists, from various fields, exploring several mediums. If they see an opportunity to express themselves, they go after it. What they do changes almost every day but so far, they have worked on multiple artistic projects, most notable being their Stormzy, Gracie and Donald Trump pieces which have been a catalyst for discussion surrounding Dublin City Council's approach to large format artwork in the public realm. They have also worked on client projects for brands such as Paddy Power, Red Bull Music, Conor McGregor, BMW, Dr. Marten's, Kendrick Lamar and the DAA, to name but a few, in areas such as Sponsored Art Campaigns, Visual Communication, Video Production, Photography and Interior Design.

The Bray mythology was written and illustrated by Chris Judge with the help of 50 local Wicklow children who between them, devised this exciting story in workshops in Killruddery House and Signal Arts Centre in September 2017.

You can travel along the trail on Bray Seafront using the map and read the story together with your family or use your imaginations and create your own adventure with Maeve and the creatures she meets.

The Brave Maeve Story Trail won the 'Best Use of Creativity in the Community' Award at the Business to Arts Awards. The story trail was launched back in November 2017.

Don't let the flu get to you

The HSE is urging people in at-risk groups to get vaccinated against influenza. Figures show that vaccine uptake rates in people aged 65 and over increased in Ireland last year.

Minister for Health, Simon Harris TD said, "Vaccination remains the most effective means of preventing infection by seasonal influenza viruses".

"We have seen improvement in vaccination rates among our healthcare staff in recent years but this still remains far too low. The vaccine is a lifesaver because flu can be a very serious and sometimes deadly disease.

"I would encourage all healthcare staff to avail of the flu vaccine and show leadership in this regard. By receiving the flu vaccine, you protect the vulnerable people in your care as well as yourself."

The HSE's flu vaccine lead, Dr John Cuddihy, said that the flu vaccine is a lifesaver because flu can be a very serious and sometimes deadly disease, with potentially 1,000 flu related deaths in Ireland during a severe flu season.

"People need to remember that flu causes severe illness and death in Ireland every year. That is why those who are most vulnerable to the complications of flu need to get vaccinated. The flu vaccine is the best defence against flu, yet every year many people in the at-risk groups fail to get vac-

nated and so put themselves at risk of serious illness or even death.

"The vaccine reduces infection and associated illnesses and hospitalisation. Flu is very infectious and can cause potentially serious illnesses especially for older people, those who have a chronic illness, those with weakened immune systems and pregnant women. Seasonal flu vaccine can be given at any stage of pregnancy and also protects the baby. The flu vaccine cannot give you the flu as it does not contain any live flu virus and all those at risk should get vaccinated as soon as possible this year to make sure that they are protected.

The following groups of at-risk people should be vaccinated against seasonal influenza: Everyone aged 65 years and over; Pregnant women; Anyone over six months of age with a long term illness requiring regular medical follow-up such as chronic lung disease, chronic heart disease, diabetes, cancer or those with lower immunity due to disease or treatment; Residents of nursing homes and other long stay facilities; People who have physical or intellectual disabilities, as

indicated; Healthcare workers; Carers of people in medical at-risk categories; People in regular contact with pigs, poultry or water fowl.

This year's seasonal flu vaccine gives broader protection against flu than the vaccine used in previous years, because it protects against four of the common flu virus strains expected to be circulating this year based on advice from the World Health Organization. The flu vaccine used in previous seasons protected against three strains of the flu virus. Seasonal flu vaccines are safe and have been given for more than 60 years to millions of people across the world. Reactions are generally mild and serious side effects are very rare.

The Irish Cancer Society says that people who are undergoing or have undergone chemotherapy and other cancer treatments are at increased risk of contracting influenza because of their weakened immune systems.

"Some cancer treatments lower immunity and lower your resistance to flu. These may include chemotherapy, radiotherapy, some targeted cancer drugs and immunotherapy

treatments. Your doctor will usually suggest that you have the flu vaccine if you have low immunity due to cancer or its treatment. But always check with them first." said Aileen McHale, Cancer Information Services Manager at the Irish Cancer Society.

"The flu vaccine injection doesn't contain live flu virus so you won't develop flu from having it. The common side effects are mild, including soreness, redness and swelling where the injection was given, headaches, and body aches and pains," McHale added.

"The flu vaccine is a lifesaver for people with long-term health conditions, including cancer," said Dr Chantal Migone, Specialist in Public Health Medicine at the NIO. "Healthy people who live with, or come into contact with, at-risk individuals like people with cancer can pass the virus onto them even before they develop the symptoms of flu," added Dr Migone. It's important that people who have cancer, as well as their household contacts get the flu vaccine every year.



Lifeboat volunteer Ian Heffernan is pictured receiving his pager from Operations Manager Des Davitt after completing probationary training at Wicklow RNLI Lifeboat Station. Ian will join the crew and carry his pager at all times ready to respond at a moment's notice when it activates. Ian was one of two recruits from Wicklow, who recently completed a vital training module at the RNLI College in Poole. Volunteers like Ian are regularly called away from their families, their beds and their work, any time of the day, ready to go and help others in peril at sea.

Big fall in availability of overnight respite

New figures have revealed that there was almost a drop of one-third in the number of respite nights available in Co. Wicklow from 2015 to 2018.

The figures provided to Fianna Fáil show that there were 10,419 respite overnights in 2015 but just 7,354 in 2018 - a drop of 3,065 in three years.

Fianna Fáil TD Pat Casey said the drop in the number of respite nights available in Co. Wicklow is "shocking" given the growing need for the service.

He said, "Nationally there has been a drop of some 26,523 respite overnights for people with disabilities between 2015 and 2018 - representing a 14.3% decrease.

"It's hard to believe there would be such a reduction when the need for respite is growing. Every week I hear from people in Wicklow who are fighting for respite overnights for their loved ones.

"As it stands the figures for 2019 don't look as though they will be any better. From the beginning of the year to the end of June there were just 3,975 respite overnights in Wicklow. At best any increase will be modest and will still be significantly behind what was delivered four years ago.

"Overnight respite is crucial for many families. It provides a much-needed break for carers in particular. Demand for respite is not going to fall and we need to address it and give those who need it so much the break they deserve," he concluded.

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Doey Walshe and John parle at the Drink Wicklow Festival in Micky Finn's, Redcross.

The Horror Writer comes to Whale Theatre

The Horror Writer is a new play by playwright/novelist Emily Gillmor Murphy and directed by Ciaran Gallagher. It tells the story of Theodore Burn, an ageing best selling writer, who reveals to Dani, a young nurse, his final tale of horror.

But unlike his other stories, this gruesome tale of murder and fantasy may just be real. If you like a ghost story full of intrigue and surprise then The Horror Writer is an evening that will promise a good scare.

Emily Gillmor Murphy is an Irish novelist/playwright. Her debut novel You and I was published with Random House in 2012, and in its first week reached no.2 in the best sellers chart. In 2014 her second novel One Chance was published. Both books received high critical acclaim and have been published in Ireland, UK and Germany.

Her plays include A Boy called Nedd showcased with Druid Theatre Company, as part of the Galway International Arts Festival 2014 and then produced with Theatre Upstairs, directed by Karl Shiels and nominat-

ed for the Stewart Park Trust Award 2015. ALL TALK part of New Theatre Dublin New Writer's week 2016, directed by Ciaran Gallagher. Monster? produced with Theatre Upstairs 2017, directed by Karl Shiels. Her Fingernails produced with Writer's Avenue London Theatre Company 2017, directed by Sandra Thompson-Quarley. And then his face became his scar commissioned by EU Collective Plays, produced in Italy for the Quartieri dell'Arte Festival 2018. Emily is an alumni of Irish Theatre Institute's 'Six in the Attic' program.

In school Emily struggled with dyslexia, but her love of literature and the arts helped her overcome it. Saturday 2nd November at 8pm (Doors 7pm) Tickets €18/€15. Suitable for age 12+. See www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550.

Suas Project attends EIP Networking event

Recently, members of the SUAS Pilot Project team participated in a nationwide networking event organised by the Irish Uplands Forum. Held in Glencree, the inaugural event created an opportunity for the local operational groups behind Ireland's upland based EIP-AGRI projects, to gather and share knowledge and experiences with each other.

Of Ireland's 23 EIP-AGRI projects currently in operation, 7 of them are based in upland settings with each of them undertaking projects that are designed to deliver solutions to the unique challenges found in their area. The groups present on the day, each delivered an informative presentation on the progress of their project and the practices that have developed since they commenced.

First to present was the SUAS Pilot Project, which is working with farmers on nine locations across the Wicklow and Dublin uplands to address the

decline in hill farming activities and the improvement of the region's biodiversity. Declan Byrne, Project Manager of the SUAS Pilot Project shared details of the project's objectives and some of the developments since its launch in 2018, with ecologist Fath Wilson participating in the workshop discussions.

Project managers, ecologists and representatives from groups as far away as Kerry and Donegal, joined representatives from the National Rural Network, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mountaineering

Ireland and a number of other interest groups for the full day programme.

Speaking following the event, Declan Byrne of the SUAS Project said: "It was

a great opportunity to discuss common issues, share our experiences and learn from each other as all of the EIP Projects have a different approach and are finding solutions that are value to each of us. It was also a wonderful occasion for Co. Wicklow to host the event and see so many attend and contribute to the gathering".

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Local men take on Corinthian Challenge Charity Race Series for injured jockeys

Irish Injured Jockeys is a national charity that raises money and awareness for our injured jockeys. Leopardstown Racecourse will host the final leg of the 2019 Corinthian Challenge Charity Race Series on Saturday, 26th of October.

Wicklow men, Neil Durkan and Jerry Horan will be riding in their final race of the series this coming weekend, a challenge that they committed to several months ago and one that has involved a great deal of training and preparation.

Retired Champion Jump Jockey, Ruby Walsh, Chairman of Irish Injured Jockeys said "Irish Injured Jockeys (IJ) is most grateful to Neil, Jerry and all of those taking part in this year's Corinthian Challenge Charity Race Series. It takes a driven and committed person to

sign up for it, someone who can get race fit and maintain that level for over four months, they have to work with trainers, source horses and raise funds through sponsorship and/or fundraising. Neil and Jerry have been a pleasure to work with and the team and I at IJ are most grateful for their efforts."

Michael Higgins, General Manager of Irish Injured Jockeys said "This is the fourth year that we have run this challenge and it is as attractive to race entrants, racecourses and racegoers as it is for the

media to really engage with and as long as there is an appetite for it and racing is happy to facilitate it, we will keep it going. The success of this series is very much dependant on the unwavering support of the racing community. We are extremely fortunate for the support of the owners and trainers who provide horses to participants to ride in these races, the racecourses that stage them and racing officials that oversee each race for us without whom this series would not be possible. It is a big commitment for Corinthian

Challengers like Neil and Jerry to sign up for a challenge like this too, however, it really is the chance of a lifetime and one we are sure they will never forget. We already have people signing up to take part next year so if you're interested, visit corinthianchallenge.com today!"

Local men, Neil and Jerry would really appreciate your support to help them to raise much-needed funds for Irish Injured Jockeys, go to everydayhero.com and enter their name in the search bar.



The 2019 Corinthian Challengers - the final leg of the Charity Race Series will take place at Leopardstown Racecourse on October 26th

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**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENTS ACTS 2000
(AS AMENDED) & PLANNING & DEVELOPMENTS
REGULATIONS 2001 (AS AMENDED)**

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT
Blacklion to Delgany - Chapel Road (L-1027)
Upgrade Scheme**

In accordance with Part 8, Article 81 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 to 2018, notice is hereby given that Wicklow County Council propose to:

Upgrade the existing Chapel Road in Delgany to improve traffic arrangements and pedestrian/cyclist accessibility

In accordance with S.I. 476, 2011, Section 250, Planning and Development (Amendment) (No.3) Regulations 2011 and SI 296 of the 2018 European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) regulations, a Screening Assessment has been carried out which determined that the proposed development does not require an Appropriate Assessment or the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement. Furthermore the Council has determined that an Environmental Impact Assessment is not required.

Plans and particulars of the proposed developments will be available for inspection or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the reception floor of Wicklow County Council, Station Road, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow and Greystones Municipal District Office, Church Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow during office hours Monday to Friday, excluding Bank Holidays for a period from Thursday 24th October 2019 to Thursday 21st November 2019 inclusive. Also available to view on www.wicklow.ie

Submissions and observations with respect to the proposed developments dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated may be made in writing to Transportation, Water and Emergency Services, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Station Road, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow on or before 12 noon on Thursday 5th December 2019.

**Allyson Minion,
Administrative Officer,
Transportation, Water and Emergency Services,
County Buildings,
Station Road,
Wicklow, Co. Wicklow.**

Email: roadtran@wicklowcoco.ie



Pictured are Aisling Callaghan and Clea Kelly at Fishers of Newtownmountkennedy's 40th anniversary party.

To advertise here contact Wicklow Times on 01 286 9111

PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Full Planning Permission Sought for:
1. The addition of rooflights at first floor level to the east and west elevations.
2. Alterations to the front (south) facade including the removal of the existing front door entrance, together with the removal and resurfacing of existing stone finish.
3. Minor miscellaneous revisions to side (east) and rear (north) facades.
4. Internal alterations and attic conversion.
All the above together with associated site works at no. 27 Mountainview Park, Eden Vale, Greystones, Co. Wicklow.
Signed: Paul Lennon
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

Permission is sought for 7 no. detached 2 storey 4 bedroom houses, 1 no. new road entrance, connection to public services, ancillary landscaping, boundary treatments and associated site works at Toghre More, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow. By Declan Keena.
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 Wicklow county council, county buildings, Wicklow, during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

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Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board invites applications for the following permanent posts

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- Coláiste Chill Mhantáin, Wicklow Town
- Coláiste Chraobh Abhann, Kilcoole, Co Wicklow
- Bray Institute of Further Education, Bray, Co Wicklow

Clerical Officers are appointed to the scheme and initial appointments will be to the above schools.

Applications should be made online by **12 noon on Thursday 7th November 2019** through the Vacancies page of www.kwetb.ie or www.etbvacancies.ie

Dr. Deirdre Keyes, Chief Executive.



etb

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Chill Dara agus Chill Mhantáin
Kildare and Wicklow
Education and Training Board

CLASSIFIED ADS & PLANNING / APPOINTMENTS
CALL 01 2869111 or email jennie@localtimes.ie
PLEASE NOTE DEADLINE FOR CLASSIFIED ADS AND APPOINTMENTS IS 12 NOON FRIDAY

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplandesign.com) Seeks planning permission for a dwelling with connection to services, new entrance and associated works at Main Street, Ashford, Co. Wicklow for H.O'Donoghue. 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

David and Suzanne Flynn seek (a) Permission and (b) Retention Permission for works to detached dormer bungalow with integral garage at Blackthorn Lodge, Barnamire, Enniskerry, Co Wicklow, A98 VH57, comprising: (a) Construction of two storey extension to east, first floor extension over garage to north, dormer extensions to north and south, first floor window on west gable elevation, widened ground floor door ope on south elevation, altered garage door ope on east elevation, replacement windows throughout, solar panels on south and west facing roof slopes, raised deck extension to south and associated site works and (b) Retention of garage window on north gable elevation and Tricel Novo waste water treatment plant with soil polishing filter in lieu of original septic tank. 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. Agent: Stephen Newell Architects - www.sna.ie

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplandesign.com) Seeks planning permission for retention of front porch to dwelling and associated works at 11 Ashford Downs, Ashford, Co. Wicklow for J. and D. Lord. The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplandesign.com) Seeks planning permission for a dwelling with connection to services, new entrance and associated works at Main Street, Ashford, Co. Wicklow for M. Kavanagh. The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

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