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Tuesday 5th November 2019

5 Eglinton Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow

Tel: 01 - 2869111

www.wicklowtimes.net

E-mail: wicklowned@localtimes.ie

ONLY FOUR GARDAI IN DRUG UNIT

At a time when there's a surge in drug offences in County Wicklow new figures reveal a significant reduction in the number of Gardaí assigned to the Wicklow divisional drugs unit. There are now just four Gardaí working in the unit.

The figures were released to Fianna Fail after the Party raised a question in the Dáil regarding the number of Gardaí assigned to each divisional drug unit in 2011, 2017, 2018 and to date in 2019. In Wicklow in 2011 there was a total of 11 Gardaí in the unit, this dropped to 3 in 2012, and now in 2019 there are just 4. Neighbouring counties Wexford and Kildare each have 9 Gardaí in their drugs unit.

In the last year there has been a 57% increase in crimes relating to drug sales and supply in the Wicklow Garda Division.

"The number of Gardaí

attached to the drug unit in Wicklow has continued to remain critically low despite accelerated Garda recruitment and a surge in drug related crime," Pat Casey TD said.

"These cuts are unacceptable particularly when we see high levels of drug crime continuing and also see how the rapid increase in drug use is damaging communities in every village and town in Wicklow.

"In response to our question, the Minister has said he has been informed by the Commissioner that the additional resources coming on stream have enabled him to assign

resources to Specialist Bureaus such as the Garda National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau for next year.

"Extra resources are badly needed in these divisions and not reductions like we have been seeing over the past few years. Garda drugs units are mainly detectives and undercover Gardaí assigned to deal with illicit drugs, movements and seizures."

Responding to the figures last week, Stephen Donnelly TD said that an increase in drug crime outside Dublin is proof that Wicklow needs more Gardaí.



Pictured at 'Jamie The Magician' in The Martello in Bray last week was Grace McGillicuddy with Kate and Lucy Plunkett. Pic: Joe Keogh



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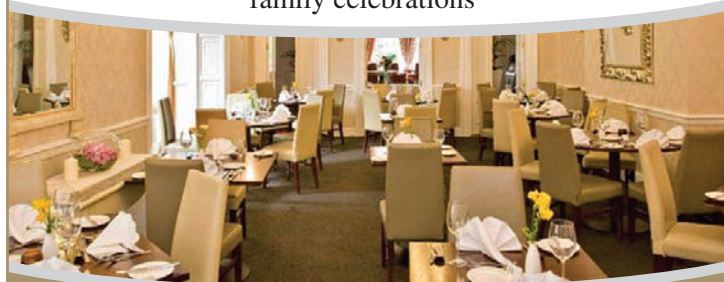
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Deputy Donnelly explained, "The number of drugs offences recorded in the first half of this year at 10,900 is 20% higher than the first six months of last year. What this says to me is that it's becoming more important than ever to have a visible Garda presence on the street. We know that this would act as a deterrent and help reverse this upward trend."

"I was so worried about the rise in crime rates in Wicklow that I held a public meeting on the issue in Bray in September. That night, I called on the Government to dramatically increase the number of Gardaí on our streets."

"We're lucky to have such dedicated and hard-working Gardaí in Wicklow. Unfortunately, their numbers and resources have been depleted in recent years. So, despite their hard

work, crime figures have been on the rise here. I have written directly to the Garda Commissioner to explain the urgency for our county to get more Gardaí and I will keep the pressure on until he starts listening," concluded Donnelly.

Responding to Fianna Fail's Parliamentary Question, Minister for Justice Charlie Flanagan said "The Garda Commissioner is statutorily responsible for the management of An Garda Síochána, including personnel matters and deployment of resources. As Minister, I have no responsibility for these matters. Garda management keeps the distribution of resources under continual review in the context of crime trends and policing priorities so as to ensure that the optimum use is made of resources."



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Riona, Martha, Eleanor, Stella, and Pierce Shanley were at the Halloween Spooks Parade at Bray Retail Park. Led by costumed characters, local children went from store to store on a spooky adventure, listening to ghost stories and collecting vouchers for treats. A fancy-dress competition rounded off the event as treats were given out.

Arklow road closure

Wicklow County Council proposes the temporary closure of the following road in Arklow from 10:00am to 4:00pm on 2nd and 3rd December 2019; L-2902-10 Castlepark. Alternative Routes: Diversion via Back Street, Lower Main Street, South Green, South Quay, Bridge Street and Main Street, Arklow. This closure is to facilitate Gas Main Installation Works. Any person wishing to object to the proposed road closure must lodge their objection in writing with the undersigned not later than 12:00 noon on Monday 11th November, 2019.

Aughrim and District Active Retirement

Chair yoga continues on Tuesday mornings. Line Dancing takes place on Friday mornings at 11am in the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome to join. The speaker at the November meeting is Emer Meighan from SAGE which is an advocacy group representing vulnerable and older people.

Bohemian Rhapsody at The Courthouse

A film that needs no introduction, Bohemian Rhapsody comes in all its glory to the Courthouse in Tinahely this month.

Though receiving mixed reviews, Rami Malek's portrayal of Freddie Mercury was a virtuoso performance of this talented and troubled man. Its recreation of Queen's performance at Live Aid, which some people call the best live performance in the history of rock, is one of the highlights of the film. As the Rolling Stone says, 'Screw the film's flaws, you don't want to miss Rami Malek's performance'. Friday 15th November 8pm €6/€5

Córde Chamber Choir seeking new members

This Greystones Choir welcomes all vocal ranges. Weekly rehearsals are on Fridays. Singing music by choral masters new and old. Singing in harmony under the direction of Kevin O'Sullivan. Kevin will place your voice range in the choir. Learning resources provided so that you can practice during the week. Good singing and learning takes place at rehearsal. All welcome. Details from cordechamberchoir@gmail.com.

Bray guided meditation

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

Laragh Active Retirement

The group meets every Tuesday morning at 11am in the Brockagh Centre and for lunch once a month at various local venues (new members welcome).

Their next monthly lunch will be in Lynhams on the 12th Nov. Their Christmas Tea Dance is on Sunday 17th November from 3-6pm, music is by the Wicklow Man.

"We are looking for prizes for our raffle so if anyone has any unwanted gifts that they would like to donate it would be greatly appreciated. Annual Christmas shopping trip, Wed 20th Nov. also the Christmas party is on Tues 10th Dec in Co. Meath. There are a limited number of places left, call Denise 0404 45600 asap for further info. Our Christmas lunch will be in the Wicklow Heather on 17th Dec. We are currently organizing our breakaway for next year, further details to follow. If anyone would like to offer their services or share their skills with the group please contact the centre. For more information on the group or outings/trips call Denise on 0404 45600, email brockaghooffice@gmail.com or drop in to the centre."

Rathmichael Historical Society

Local historian and author Rob Goodbody will be the guest speaker for the Wednesday November 6th meeting of the Rathmichael Historical Society.

Rathmichael Historical Society is the local history society for Shankill, Ballybrack, and the surrounding area, at 8pm in Rathmichael National School, Stonebridge Road (Dublin Road end), Shankill, at which he will cover the history of 'Howth Harbour' All welcome - admission €5.

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Wicklow Dementia Support needs volunteers

Wicklow Dementia Support is currently in need of volunteers for its Meet and Eat program.

Meet and Eat is a project that aims to target older adults who are socially isolated, living alone and in particular those who are vulnerable due to physical, mental, or cognitive impairment. It covers the Arklow area and from Aughrim to Glenealy. Twelve volunteers (male and female) are to be recruited to assist with preparing simple nutritious meals and providing companionship at mealtimes once a week in the older person's home. Volunteers will receive training and Garda Vetting.

"If you know of any vulnerable adults in the target area who would benefit from this intervention or if you know a suitable volunteer please get in touch with us," said Wicklow Dementia Support.

Volunteer recruitment & training will take place with the programme being rolled out in November.

Please contact Jenny at Wicklow Dementia Support if interested; 089 428 6928 or info@wicklowdementia-support.org

Wicklow Dementia Support is a local charity, supporting people with dementia and their families. They aim to support the person with dementia to stay at home in their own community for as long as possible. As well as the Meet and Eat Program, WDS runs a befriending program (AlzPals), social clubs (AlzClubs) for the person with dementia and their carer, Memory Lane Music Group, Carer Support Groups, and organizes cultural outings and other social get-togethers throughout the year.

"Volunteers are the heart and soul of WDS but funds are needed to train them and to pay for all other supports and social gatherings provided throughout the year. Fundraising is crucial for our ability to provide the best services we can and to further expand into Wicklow County."

Square One Theatre Group present: Rumours by Neil Simon

Ken Gorman and his wife Chris arrive at the tastefully decorated London townhouse, but all is not as it seems....

The host, the Deputy Mayor of London, appears to have just shot himself. His wife Vivian, is nowhere to be found and the kitchen staff are gone. Guests will be gathering for the Deputy Mayor's tenth wedding anniversary, as he himself lies bleeding in the other room.

Panic and confusion ensue. Ken and Chris must get their 'story' straight before all the other guests arrive. As the absurdity and commotion escalate, the play culminates in classic farcical comedy.

Maeve Miller directs Square One Theatre Group in Rumours by Neil Simon. Square One Theatre Group have been stunning Wicklow audiences with high-quality theatre productions for over 40 years, staging two full productions per year. This Winter we welcome Square One back to Mermaid for what is sure to be another wonderful show.

Mermaid Arts Centre, Tuesday 5th - Saturday 9th November, 8pm. Tickets: €18/16

Phelim Drew Band in Music, Songs and Stories

Celebrating the music that he grew up on, and reinterpreting the songs of his late father Ronnie Drew and The Dubliners, Phelim brings a Drew house session to Whale Theatre for one special night.

Having established himself as one of the country's most in-demand actors and voice-over artists, Phelim Drew has always held a special place in his heart for music, performing with numerous collaborators and bands over the decades. And now, finally, he's happy to embrace those early influences, the music that resounded through the Drew home on Killincarrig Road.

So, get ready for a sort of homecoming, as Phelim Drew takes a bunch of classic, much-loved songs, and makes them his own.

Full Bar, Wicklow Farmhouse Cheeseboards, Fresh Popcorn and Confectionary available to buy on the night.

Friday 27th December and Saturday 28th December at 8pm (Doors 7pm) Tickets €24/€22. See www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550.



Alison Lynn, Diana Ladio, and Kian Byrne are pictured at the Moxie Stings Halloween Concert in the Asgard Theatre in Arklow

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

Contacts:

Shay Fitzmaurice, Managing Editor - shay@localtimes.ie

Ian Colgan, News Editor - ian@localtimes.ie

Erika Doyle, Features Editor - erika@localtimes.ie

General enquiries - info@localtimes.ie

First phase of development at old Dell site approved

An Bord Pleanála has granted permission for the first phase of a development at the old Dell site in Bray. The initial phase will consist of construction of a four storey 205 bedroom nursing home with resident and staff facilities, a plant area at roof level, totalling a gross floor area of over 10,000 sq ft. The proposal includes internal courtyards and terrace areas, and adjacent landscaped amenity space. The development also includes a four-storey office building, with a ground floor café. Vehicular access will be from the existing entrance at Vevay Road.

An Bord Pleanála ruled that having regard to the nature design, scale of the proposed development, the location of the site on lands zoned mixed use, in an area well served by public transport and close to services and amenities, it

is considered that subject to compliance with conditions, the proposed development would not seriously injure the residential or visual amenity of the area or property in the vicinity. They say the development would respect the existing character of the area, be acceptable in terms of traffic and pedestrian safety and would constitute an appropriate form of development at this location.

It is expected that a further planning application will seek to build residential units of the rest of the site.

Councillor Steven Matthews (GP) told *Wicklow Times* that he had submitted an amendment to ensure that overlooking is minimised.

He said, "The local area plan proposed four storey development throughout this site. I submitted an amendment that was agreed by council that 4 storey would be limited to the south and west of the site, with heights to the north and east being more consistent with existing residential, protecting views of Bray Head and minimising overlooking of existing residents."

"In this application the Council planners called into question whether the proposal adequately addressed my amendment and sought further information and suggested a redesign which

would include reduction in heights to the north and east.

"The developer responded by reducing heights to 3 storey at these points and I think this is a better outcome."

"I fully support higher density and mixed use development and it is something we are going to see more of in future throughout Bray and other parts of Wicklow. It is of vital importance that these developments are well designed, considerate of existing amenity and provide proper well

managed public open spaces for amenity."

Deputy Stephen Donnelly (FF) said he is very happy that a slightly altered version of the new design has been accepted by the planning authority.

Deputy Donnelly added, "The latest plans will see a mix of residential and commercial properties erected. Part will be designated for a nursing home and part will be used as an office block. Some locals had been worried that the planned 4 storeys would

overlook their homes and restrict their views of Bray Head. Amendments were submitted to An Bord Pleanála and the new design will now stretch to only 3 storeys in the north and east of the site.

"In my role as Health Spokesperson I can personally say I'm very relieved to see a brand-new nursing home coming into the area. My party has recently exposed serious delays in the project to upgrade existing nursing homes to acceptable standards. In

fact, almost one third of projects announced in 2016 have missed their completion date. It is absolutely essential we provide high quality accommodation for people at every stage in their life. We know many prefer to remain in their own home, but when that isn't an option we absolutely have to provide top notch alternatives. We already have many fine nursing homes in Wicklow, hopefully this new nursing home will be prove to be a great addition", concluded Donnelly.



An image of what the completed nursing home will look like



Pictured in Bray Town Hall for the signing of the formal renewal of the Partnership Pledge between Bray and Wurzburg, Germany, were Matthias Flenkenstein, Cathaoirleach of Bray, Steven Matthews, Chairman of the Irish-German Society of County Wicklow, George Jones, Marion Schafer-Blake, and Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Irene Winters

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Ellen Fox-Lanigan and Ann O'Neill invite you to have a cuppa and help raise funds for Tinahely's Christmas lights.

Have a cuppa and help light up Tinahely

Christmas is still several weeks away but the preparations to have Tinahely sparkle for the festive season are well underway.

The 2018 Christmas lights display was most impressive and showed Tinahely at its very best.

There was major investment in rewiring and maintenance of the lighting infrastructure throughout the village, along with the installation of new lights, trees and accessories.

To help with the upgrade and maintenance works, a coffee morning fundraiser will be held on Saturday 9th November in Courthouse Arts Centre, Tinahely, 10am - 1pm.

The setting up, testing and taking down of the Christmas lights is carried out by a willing group of volunteers. It is the generous support of the community and businesses that make the Christmas lights projects possible.

Coffee morning organiser Ellen Fox-Lanigan said "You're invited to come along to this fundraiser and help us light up Tinahely this Christmas, and continue with the lovely family tradition of the lights switch-on event. The committee is extremely grateful for your valued support. Let's do our village proud again at Christmas."

The Big Switch On and the arrival of Santa will be held on Sunday 8th December at 4:30pm.

COPD Support Ireland Bray Support Group to Host Information Point

To mark World COPD Day 2019, COPD Support Ireland's Bray Support Group is to host an Information Point at Tesco Shopping Centre, Vevay Road, Bray, on Wednesday November 20th from 10am to 1pm.

COPD, or Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, is a lung condition that makes it hard for people to breathe due to obstruction of the airways and incorporates two well-known conditions - emphysema and chronic bronchitis. 883 people from Wicklow Hospitalised due to COPD between 2016 and 2018.

COPD Support Ireland is the national umbrella body for COPD support groups nationwide and works to raise awareness of the condition, to advocate on behalf of patients and their families, to enable peer support and self-management, and to support research and educational initiatives.

Representatives from the Bray Support Group will be on hand to provide information on the condition and general health and well-being advice, as well as point to the resources available locally, including peer support meetings, information talks and exercise programmes. COPD Support Ireland is supported in its awareness activities for World COPD Day 2019 by A Menarini, GSK and Novartis.

Smoking is the most common cause of COPD but prolonged exposure to environmental toxins, fumes and dust, is also a risk factor. According to most recent information from the Department of Health, it is estimated that almost half a million people aged 40 years and over in Ireland have COPD, of whom over 200,000 have moderate or severe disease and only half are likely to be diagnosed. COPD is the most common disease-specific cause of emergency hospital admission among adults with Ireland having the highest hospitalisation rate for COPD of all OECD countries in 2015, the last year for which international data is available.

For Prof. JJ Gilmartin, Consultant Respiratory Physician and Chair of COPD Support Ireland, it is important to get the message out that COPD can be managed and treated effectively, especially if caught early:

"My advice to anyone who has a persistent cough with phlegm, shortness of breath, and recurrent winter bronchitis, is to visit their GP. I would also encourage people who are over 35 years, who are current or former smokers, or who have a family history of lung conditions to talk their doctor too. If appropriate, your GP can organise a spirometry test. This is a very simple procedure where the patient simply blows into a device to determine if they have COPD. The key thing to remember with COPD is that the earlier it is caught, the better. It means that we can make sure that a person receives the appropriate treatment and care, and have a much better outcome. Put simply, you will be able to live your life better, for longer. This World COPD Day, I would encourage people to take a moment to say hello to the members of the Bray Support Group at their information point. It could make a real difference to your life, or to that of someone you love."

Top Tips - How to Live Better with COPD:

1. Early diagnosis is key. This is the first step to living better with COPD. If you are experiencing symptoms such as persistent cough, wheeze, phlegm and difficulty breathing, talk to your GP.
2. Know your COPD. Get to know your symptoms, monitor them and watch out for things that can trigger flare-ups. For example, avoiding smoky environments, dust, smog, foggy weather and high pollen, can help keep flare-ups at bay.
3. If you smoke, stop. This is the most important thing that you can do to help your lungs. Support is available through the National Smokers Quitline on 1800 201 203 or at www.quit.ie. Talk to your GP or pharmacist for advice on nicotine replacement therapy or other medications that can help.
4. Shake a leg. Exercise, done in a structured, safe and controlled way, is one of the best ways to improve breathlessness. It helps to strengthen muscles, promotes good sleep and contributes to an improved feeling of well-being. Join a local COPD Support Ireland exercise class near you - visit www.copd.ie for details.

5. Eat well. A balanced diet provides the energy needed to breathe, promotes a strong immune system to help fight infections and helps maintain a healthy weight.

6. Know your medicines. Make sure you are familiar with how they work and how and when to take them. Have your inhaler technique checked regularly and make sure you have enough of your medicines so you don't run out.

7. Breathe easier. Use controlled breathing techniques and chest clearance to help get rid of phlegm and aid relaxation.

8. Get vaccinated. People with COPD are more at risk of catching the 'flu and pneumonia - both of which can be very serious and affect your breathing. Seek advice from your healthcare professional.

9. Mind your head, as well as your lungs. The demands of living with COPD can lead to feelings of stress, anxiety and depression. It is important to recognise these responses and seek help in finding ways to cope with the mental as well as the physical challenges of COPD.

People who have questions about how best to manage COPD, and who wish to speak to a specialist respiratory nurse for information and advice, can telephone the national COPD Advice Line on Freephone 1800 83 21 46. This is a call-back service and an appointment will be made for a nurse to return the call at a convenient time. The line is open Monday to Friday, from 9am to 5pm.

For more information on COPD and the COPD Support Ireland Bray Support Group, visit www.copd.ie.

Fishers host fashion show fundraiser for Cups Against Cancer

Customers and locals gathered in Fishers of Newtownmountkennedy for their Cups Against Cancer Event recently.

Guests were treated to a gorgeous display of the Autumn collections modelled brilliantly by the Fishers team. These 'real people' of all shapes, sizes and ages, looked fabulous in the autumn looks. Prizes were donated by Fishers Boutique Department Store, Food at Fishers Café, Beds of A Feather, The Schoolhouse Studio and Anne Duffy Flowers and the crowd raised €509 (so far) from the raffle for the Irish Cancer Society.

"Thank you so much to all those who attended and gave so generously, we were thrilled

to support this really worthwhile cause," Rebecca Harrison of Fishers speaking after the event.

Fishers has been celebrating its 40th Anniversary and has a programme of events in store. A Wire Art Workshop with Susie Kenny was held on Wednesday 30th October and there will be a Wine Tasting & Rugby Evening with rugby legend Ollie Campbell and wine expert Peter Crosse on Wednesday 6th November. To book a spot and for more info visit www.fishers.ie/40 or call 01 2819404.



Jean Harris, Sandrine Lemmonier and Elizabeth Graham at the Fishers Cups Against Cancer Fashion Show Coffee Morning

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Sudbury School ‘falling through the cracks’ with no access to educational buildings

Ireland’s first democratic school for self-directed learning, Wicklow Sudbury School, says it is “falling through the cracks”. The school has just started its fourth year, but is without a permanent building, and will hold a public meeting this week seeking a solution.

For the past two years, the school was located in a house in Kilpedder, but the property was sold at the end of last school year. The school community has searched exhaustively for another suitable property and have found two educational buildings that they say would be suitable in the short to mid-term, Ravenswell and Colaiste Raithin in Bray, but the school says it has run into difficulties due to the Department of Education’s lien on educational buildings.

Wicklow Sudbury claims that the owners of these properties have expressed that they would be happy for Wicklow Sudbury to occupy their buildings, however Wicklow Sudbury says that the Department of Education will not release either of the properties, even for just one year. “The result is that two suitable, educationally zoned buildings are sitting empty,” Wicklow Sudbury School says. “Both are apparently being held for a local secondary school.”

Wicklow Sudbury is currently being held in a community centre for three days, a yoga studio for one day, and parents have volunteered their houses for one day per week. The school says that this arrangement “severely limits the activities the school can do and prevents its students from settling into their learning space. Wicklow Sudbury has been in touch with local Councillors and TDs, who have shown great support and have submitted Parliamentary Questions to the Minister of Education on the school’s behalf. The Department has responded by saying that the school is not in their remit. Wicklow Sudbury has received a similar response from the office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs.

“Wicklow Sudbury is a registered independent school and has been approved and endorsed by the child welfare agency TUSLA. There is clearly an appetite for change to Ireland’s educational system, evidenced by the recent review of the leaving cert and by studies like ‘So How Was School Today?’”

Wicklow Sudbury will hold a public meeting in the Glenview Hotel at 7pm on Thursday 7th

November. The meeting is for families (current and future), friends, and supporters of the school, to come together and contribute their collective knowledge and experience to help Wicklow Sudbury find a home.

“We know what needs to be done, and every small contribution of time and effort will help us get to where we want to go,” said staff member Ciara Brehony.

“We have a big vision for our little school, a vision that is outward reaching and inclusive, that can offer a solution to the almost 100 families (and growing) that are on our waiting list who are looking for an alternative, but also that can help change the landscape of education in Ireland for many more than just our students.

“If you believe Irish children deserve to have a choice, deserve a positive, nourishing, healing educational experience, if you are inspired by what Wicklow Sudbury is doing, then please come along to see how you can help. Ireland cannot afford to let schools like Wicklow Sudbury fall through the cracks.”

Sudbury Schools follow the philosophy of ‘self-directed learning, responsibility, freedom and age-mixing’, with no fixed curriculum, homework or schedules. Staff serve as ‘facilitators’ rather than traditional teachers, and practice ‘non-interference as much as possible’. Children aged from 5 to 18 can attend the school and are mixed together with no grade/class levels.

It is a not-for-profit organisation and registered charity, and receives no State funding. It’s a fee-paying school with fees going towards the running of the school (rent, staff pay, utilities, etc.). Fees are on a sliding scale based on an income assessment. The annual tuition fee for one child is 12% of the Gross Household Income. If the GHI is €20,000 or below then the fee is €2,400 for one child, and some families may qualify for subsidies if payment of the minimum fee isn’t possible.

On its website, the school states its core principles: “Wicklow Sudbury School is a place where children can play and learn by following their passions and interests, where there are no compulsory classes and

no set curriculum. At our school equal importance will be given to all activities and interests. Practical skills, the Arts and Academics are held equally.

“Wicklow Sudbury School will be a comfort-

able, safe place for children to learn, play and explore. The school will have a democratic structure with each child and each staff member having an equal vote in decision making and in the creation of the rules and regulations of the school.”

The school says it is inspired by the Sudbury Valley School set up in Massachusetts in 1968.

Since then over 50 Sudbury model schools have been set up around the world. Basics subjects like reading, writing, and maths are learned ‘when the child is ready and willing’, and if students wish to sit the Leaving Cert then this will be facilitated. The school says that 80% of Sudbury graduates get into the college of their first choice.



Wicklow Sudbury School needs a new home

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Darren Darker from A Plus Service Centre picking up the Tyre Champion Award, from Bill Collins, CEO of Repak ELT.

Bray company wins a national environmental award at 2019 Pakman Awards

Bray business A Plus Service Centre has been named as the winner of the 2019 Tyre Champion Award at the 2019 Pakman Awards.

The Pakman Awards is a national environmental awards programme that recognises outstanding work in recycling, sustainability and waste management by businesses, organisations, individuals and community groups in Ireland.

This year's ceremony saw 400 representatives from leading community groups and businesses come together to recognise excellence in waste management, sustainability and recycling. Bray based tyre company, A Plus Service Centre provides a range of motoring services to residents in the locality. The Pakman Awards judging panel singled out A Plus Service Centre for its work over the past twelve months supporting Repak ELT in the rollout of the scheme's various initiatives that have promoted tyre safety and recycling as well as actively disposing of its waste correctly through an accredited waste collection operator.

A Pakman Award is one of the highest environmental accolades that a company, community group or individual can win for their waste management and recycling efforts in Ireland. All 14 category winners were automatically put forward for the overall Pakman Award on the night, which was won this year by the Aran Islands Co-op Recycling Project (Athchursail Árann).

Speaking on A Plus Service Centre's win at the Pakman Awards, Séamus Clancy, CEO of Repak said "I would like to congratulate A Plus Tyre Service Centre on winning the Tyre Champion Award at the 2019 Pakman Awards. A Plus Service Centre has demonstrated time and time again to its customers how important it is to have healthy car tyres when driving on the road. Any tyres that have reached the end of their life span must be changed and disposed of correctly to ensure safe driving and a better environment. "With more vehicles on Ireland's roads than ever before, it is perhaps more important than ever to ensure your tyres are safe to drive. Companies like A Tyre Service Centre play a crucial role in championing this and protecting Ireland's environment for our future."



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

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You should not assume that just because your name was on the Register at the last election that it is still there. In particular, if you have moved house recently or you will be 18 years of age or over on the 15th February, 2020 your name should be on the Register. **IT IS UP TO YOU TO ENSURE THAT IT IS!!**

Application forms (RFA1) for inclusion on the Register of Electors are available to download from www.checktheregister.ie or from franchise@wicklowcoco.ie These should be returned to the Franchise Section, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow by the **25th November, 2019.**

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Application forms for inclusion on the Postal or Special Voters Lists may be obtained from the Franchise Section, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow (or via download from www.checktheregister.ie) to be returned by the **25th November, 2019.**

Thomas Murphy
Director of Services,
Wicklow County Council
County Buildings,
Wicklow.

Funding boost for social enterprises in Bray and North Wicklow

Bray Area Partnership is inviting applications from local social enterprises operating in the Bray and North Wicklow area for the Small Capital Grants Scheme.

The scheme will provide grants of between €2,000 and €15,000 for equipment, repairs or refurbishments, which will enable social enterprises to improve their service.

Social enterprises aim to achieve a social, societal or environmental impact by trading through the provision of goods or services and reinvesting surpluses back into achieving social objectives.

The scheme is an initiative under the National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland 2018-2022, which the Minister for Community & Rural Affairs published in July, and will be administered through Local Development Companies such as Bray Area

Partnership.

CEO of Bray Area Partnership, Peter Brennan, said "Our staff have been supporting social enterprises through SICAP and other programmes for many years and this new fund will give the sector a significant boost, particularly by assisting early stage projects that have huge capacity for positive social impact."

Announcing the scheme, Minister Ring said "One of the main objectives of the National Social Enterprise Policy is to grow and strengthen social enterprises. The new small capital grants scheme will support over 100 social enterprises through funding of €1 million from the

Dormant Accounts Fund and will be of particular interest to smaller or start-up social enterprises which do not necessarily have the capacity to compete for larger grants."

The Minister continued:

"I am pleased that the Local Development Companies have agreed to partner with my Department to deliver this scheme. The Local Development Companies provide grassroots support to social enterprises all around the country and are well placed to administer the fund."

Full details of the Small Capital Grants Scheme for Social Enterprises, including Applications Forms and Guidelines, are available

to download at www.brayareapartnership.ie, or call 01 286 8266. Bray Area Partnership can provide assistance with the application process to any group that wishes to apply.

All applications must be received by Bray Area Partnership by 3pm on Monday, 11th November. While Bray Area Partnership will administer the fund, all decisions on grant awards will be made by the Department of Rural & Community Development. It is expected that applicants will be notified of the results of their application by the Department of Rural and Community Development by 11th December.

Megazyme leads the world on measurement of lactose

A team of scientists from Megazyme, headquartered in Bray, has developed a new analytical test "K-LOLAC Enzymatic Low Lactose Assay" that offers a rapid, novel, and sequential measurement of free glucose and lactose in conventional, low-lactose and lactose-free dairy products.

The global accreditation body, Association of Official Analytical Chemists (AOAC) International approved LOLAC for Official Methods of Analysis First Action during a meeting of the AOAC INTERNATIONAL Expert Review Panel for the Stakeholder Panel on Infant formula and Adult Nutritionals (SPI-FAN) Nutrient Methods in Denver last month.

Lactose Intolerance is a condition that affects almost 70% of the population of the world. Though only 15% of Northern Europeans suffer, it affects close to 100% of the population in parts of Asia and Africa.

Lactose, the most abundant sugar in dairy products, is normally hydrolysed during digestion by the enzyme lactose-phlorizin hydrolase. Any person deficient in this enzyme can experience gastrointestinal symptoms. LOLAC promotes public health by allowing greater precision in measuring the remaining lactose.

The global accreditation body AOAC recently asked analytical scientists around the world to propose methods for the measurement of lactose in lactose-free products.

LOLAC, presented to the AOAC Expert Review Team Panel by R. Ivory, E. Delaney, D. Mangan and B.V. McCleary of Megazyme, was launched in October 2017 as the result of a major R&D investment over the previous 18 months. Five other methods were also put forward from companies across the world. The Expert Review Panel of AOAC recommended that

of the six methods submitted, only Megazyme's LOLAC procedure was currently suitable to progress to AOAC Official Method First Action Status. This now triggers an interlaboratory validation study which will take place in a number of countries around the world over the next few months and hopefully pave the way for LOLAC to achieve AOAC Official Method Final Action Status. This is Megazyme's 11th validated method from AOAC with research ongoing with other products.

"This is a major step forward for the team, as a key element of the method being accepted globally is AOAC validation" said Barry McCleary, CEO and Founder of Megazyme.

"International customers from 25 countries have already driven sales of LOLAC and Megazyme is confident that this latest AOAC recognition will further position LOLAC as the number one global analytical method for the measurement of lactose in lactose-free products," he added.

Megazyme has recently launched new test kits for the measurement of available carbohydrates and digestible starch to help address the global obesity and Type II diabetes challenge. Additional new products to be scheduled in 2019 include assay kits for the measurement of phosphate, for water quality analysis, and histamine to accurately identify fish spoilage.



Council seeks funding for Arklow Transport Study

Wicklow County Council has made an application for funding to the National Transport Authority to carry out an Arklow Transportation Study.

John Brady TD welcomed the news and said that two key areas need to be included in the study - the need to develop a slip road on and off the M11 to the Vale Road, and the development of a new port access road.

Deputy Brady said "I welcome the fact that an application for funding to carry out a transportation study in Arklow has been made. Arklow is a fantastic town with massive amounts of potential that needs to be unlocked. Unfortunately, traffic in the town is still a major problem and it needs to be addressed to ensure that the town's potential can be fully unlocked. I met the CEO of Wicklow County Council Frank Curran last year and I asked him to look at having a study carried out, so I'm delighted that action is now finally being taken to have a study carried out, so measures can be put in place to address the problem that is having a



John Brady TD

negative impact on the development of the town.

"I believe that key to addressing the traffic problem would be the construction of a new slip road on and off the M11 to the Vale Road. Currently people travelling to Woodenbridge or Aughrim must come through Arklow. This is unnecessarily bringing cars into the town and adding to the congestion. It's unbelievable that this slip road wasn't constructed in the 1990's when the Arklow Bypass was being constructed."

Deputy Brady continued "There are also a con-

siderable number of new houses under construction on the Vale Road, and more large planning applications are due to be submitted soon. Its critically important that the right infrastructure is in place. One of the most logical things to address the issue of traffic is to construct the new slip road to take cars out of Arklow. This was one of the main proposals in my Unlocking Arklow's Potential document which was published last year. Earlier in the year Sinn Féin launched a campaign for the development of this vital slip road and people signed a petition looking for its development too.

"I also believe that the construction of a port access road to Arklow harbour should also be explored. This would allow for the removal of heavy goods vehicles from the town centre and allow the harbour area to develop.

"When I published my Unlocking Arklow's Potential document I contacted the Minister for Transport and asked him about funding for the construction of the slip road. The Minister informed me that no application for funding has been forthcoming from the local authority for the project and that a feasibility study should first be carried out."

Deputy Brady concluded "The council is currently engaging with the NTA to secure the necessary funding allocation to carry out the study. In the meantime, the Roads Directorate is preparing a brief for consultants to carry out the transportation study. I have also been in contact with the NTA in support of the application which I hope is considered favourably. However, the council must give priority to carrying the study out with or without the funding from the NTA."



Kathleen Kelleher, Christiane Potschka, Jean Kelly, and Cristof Potschka at the Wurzburg photography exhibition by Boris Albert, in the Civic Offices in Bray

Harris urges commuters to make submissions on second draft of Bus Connects

Minister Simon Harris has urged Wicklow Commuters to make submissions on the second draft of Bus Connects network proposals for new bus routes.

Minister Harris said "I would urge all commuters to examine the draft bus network published by the NTA as part of the Bus Connects proposals. Submissions have been invited by the NTA from members of the public and the deadline for submissions is Tuesday December 3rd.

"The new draft of the Bus Connects network is a considerable improvement for Wicklow commuters on the original draft but there are still significant outstanding issues relating to connectivity to hospitals. If you would like to examine a map of the proposed new routes go to busconnects.ie or please contact my office directly.

"I too will be making a submission to the NTA on the revised draft and I would welcome any further additional feedback on Bus Connects from constituents".

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Noelle Moran (Teaching Council), Dr Jason Comerford from Blacklion School, Greystones, with their Biotechnology through Inquiry stand at the 8th annual FÉILTE event which took place at NUI Galway. Three (non-Dublin) Leinster schools including Blacklion School in Greystones, were selected to showcase projects at the 8th annual FÉILTE event. Organised by The Teaching Council, FÉILTE is the largest annual educational event in Ireland. The unique gathering celebrates the wonderful work that teachers do every day in their classrooms

Climate Action Charter introduced for all Local Authorities

The Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment Richard Bruton, T.D., and the Minister of State Sean Canney T.D. last week signed a Charter with all 34 Local Authorities, committing local government to driving forward meaningful climate action in their communities, through the actions set out in the Climate Action Plan.

Minister Bruton said "The public sector leading by example is a central pillar of the Climate Action Plan. I am determined that government, both at central and local level, will lead the way in our response to the climate challenge."

The Climate Action Plan, published earlier this year, is the government's plan to ensure we meet our 2030 climate commitments, putting us on a trajectory to be net-zero emissions by 2050. The Charter being signed today is a key action in the Plan and will ensure every local authority embeds decarbonisation, sustainable development and climate resilience into every aspect of the work they do.

Minister Bruton said "Local Authorities are uniquely placed to drive forward effective climate action at both the regional and local level. Given their pivotal role across the key sectors of planning, housing, transport and waste and their close relationship with the community, they have a crucial role in implementing the step change that is needed and influencing many more to address this challenge."

Minister of State Canney said "The key to achieving our Climate Action targets is to bring everyone with us. Local authorities are a focal point for our communities, villages, towns and cities and their support for this charter reflects the whole of society approach we need to take to transform our economy from brown to green."

The Charter commits Local Authorities to several actions that will ensure that they play a key leadership role locally and nationally in delivering effective climate action. Among other commitments, all local authorities will: Put in place a process for carbon proofing major decisions, programmes and projects on a systematic basis, including investments in transport and energy infrastructure; Deliver a 50% improvement in energy efficiency by 2030; Ensure all suppliers provide information on their carbon footprint and steps they plan to reduce its impact; Build local citizen engagement, particularly with young people; Partner & collaborate on climate action initiatives with local community groups, local enterprise and local schools and higher level institutions; Monitor, evaluate and report annually on the implementation of activities under the Charter.

Minister Bruton said "Last year's emissions figures show that we do not have time to waste. We must drive forward the actions in the Climate Action Plan. Only through consistent, sustained action, can we deliver the step change that is needed."

Minister of State Canney said "The local authorities through their various roles, including spacial planning, forward planning and engagement with communities through the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) and the Public Participation Networks (PPNs) are ideally placed to help deliver effective Climate Action in our communities."

Welcoming the adoption of the Charter, Michael Walsh, Chair of the County and City Management Association (CCMA) and Chief Executive of Waterford City and County Council, said: "Local authorities have huge ambitions for what we can achieve in the area of climate action. We are already making significant progress; councils around the country are cutting the carbon footprint of our internal operations, making our housing stock more energy efficient, prioritising climate considerations in development planning and actively engaging our communities on climate issues. With support from central government we can do even more and provide the on-the-ground leadership needed to make Ireland a global leader in climate action. The Local Authority Climate Action Charter is the blueprint for future progress in creating an Ireland that is sustainable for future generations, and councils around the country are ready to take the lead in this vital work."

The Green Party welcomed the announcement but says that local authorities are not prepared nor resourced for the challenges that climate change and biodiversity loss will present.

Green Party Spokesperson for Local Government, Cllr Malcolm Noonan, said "We warmly welcome this commitment by the City and County Managers Association (CCMA) towards addressing the climate and biodiversity crisis but we remain deeply concerned that local government is simply not fit for purpose to deliver and inspire the change required."

He said that the charter makes no reference to the biodiversity emergency and that including the line 'in so far as is practicable' with reference to measures to reducing carbon emissions, is a get out clause from making difficult decisions.

"Ultimately we have a serious governance and resourcing issue to making this charter a reality. We have the most centralised and underfunded local government system in Europe. Politically it is clientelist in structure and the skills do not exist within local authorities to build participative democracy and support young people in particular to be agents of change," he said.

Harris publishes first Climate Change Adaptation Plan for health sector

Minister for Health Simon Harris TD has published the first Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the health sector (2019 - 2024).

The plan was developed by a joint Department-HSE team of officials and doctors following a public consultation. The plan identified six main climate scenarios with the most profound health implications. Two of the six scenarios relate to slow onset climate effects over time (UV radiation and air pollution) and four scenarios concern acute, severe weather events (windstorms, extreme heat and heatwaves, high precipitation and flooding, and extreme cold snaps).

Following the publication of the plan, Minister Harris said: "Without decisive adaptation action, climate change will have profound impacts on the health and well-being of our people, on the smooth delivery of our health and social care services, and on our critical infrastructure."

"Crucially, the health effects of climate change will be felt particularly by our most vulnerable citizens, including the elderly, children, those with pre-existing conditions, the urban poor, farmers and those living in coastal areas."

"Clearly, many of the negative health impacts of climate change originate in other sectors, and continuing strong cross-government collaboration will be required to effectively address these."

The Minister announced a Climate Change Oversight Group will be established for the health sector. Its role will be to drive and oversee implementation of the plan; will closely collaborate with relevant stakeholders in the health sector; and will monitor and review progress, including any unintended consequences that may arise.

Minister Harris added: "I am establishing a Climate Change Oversight Group for the health sector, led by the Department of Health. This new group will oversee implementation of the actions set out in the plan, and will adopt an inclusive and collaborative approach to addressing the health impacts of climate change."

Operation WildNation aims to protect some of our under threat wild bird species

ONE of Ireland's biggest garden centres is on a mission to drive primary school pupils across Wicklow absolutely wild.

CountryLife Garden Centres want to educate the nation about wild bird conservation through its exciting and engaging new Operation WildNation initiative. Ultimately they're helping to protect some of our under threat wild bird species - among these thrushes and finches - during the tough autumn and winter months.

The group, which has 14 CountryLife Garden Centre outlets across the country, including Wicklow centres in Rathdrum and Ashford, along with an online gardening website www.countrylife.ie and has teamed up with renowned environmental-

ist, author and broadcaster, Éanna Ni Lamhna. The fun initiative, which is already gathering momentum, aims to engage thousands of primary school children country-wide on the importance of looking after nature's wildlife.

The campaign includes an exciting Operation WildNation colouring competition focusing on children from first to third class with templates and full competition details available now on www.countrylife.ie/colourmewild.

The winning child or school will receive an interactive talk with Éanna and an expert horticulturalist from their local CountryLife Garden

Centre. The prize also includes a fun peanut butter and seed roll-making session as well as vouchers, a wild bird survival kit for the school and more.

Éanna Ni Lamhna said young people are the best possible people to educate their parents and the wider community about the importance of wildlife and wild bird conservation. "Children are the ones leading the charge on climate change and protecting our environment."

"Anyone with a garden can get great enjoyment and fun out of watching out for wild birds. If there are berries in your garden, if there's ivy on your walls, if you've prickly

hedges or if you introduce bird boxes, some bird seed and invest in a good wild bird book and a pair of binoculars there's endless pleasure to be had.

"It's fun, its where lifelong memories are made and it requires focus - you can't press pause or rewind if you miss that robin or goldfinch. But it's so worthwhile. I'm delighted to be championing Operation WildNation and getting out and meeting children and

visiting schools," she said.

CountryLife Garden Centre's Jess Kelly said: "It's never been more important to care for our native wild birds, so we're really thrilled to launch this campaign with a focus on educating the children of Ireland, who can so often become the conduit for great progress in this space."

"Following on from our Operation PolliNation initiative earlier in the year, we're excited to continue to support our customers with the right information and product options, such as berry trees and bird feed, in order to make their garden a wild bird friendly environment."

CountryLife Garden Centres are intent on making it easier for all the family and the wider public to join in and have invested in attention-grabbing and easy to understand promotions, branding and assistance from their expert horticulturalists when choosing the right berry and bird-friendly plants, shrubs and trees in its 14 outlets nationwide.

The campaign is being championed by staff in CountryLife's Garden Centres, which are open year-round. Friendly staff and in-store horticulturalists are keen to guide both aspiring and experienced gardeners through their wide range of quality, wild bird-friendly plants, as well as the most appropriate feeders, seed and other wild bird foods for each and every garden.



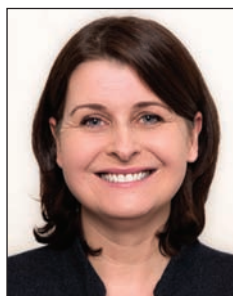
Pictured are environmentalist and author Eanna Ni Lamhna, with Fergal Joy, CountryLife horticulturist, and Sofia No Mhaoldomhnaig, Colour Me Wild mascot

'Urgent transport plan needed for Greystones District'

Social Democrats Councillor for Greystones Jennifer Whitmore has called for Wicklow County Council to develop a Transport Plan for the Greystones Municipal District. Cllr Whitmore says a 'real-life' representation of the traffic and public transport patterns for residents is urgently required to enable the sustainable development of the area, and to ensure that whatever new housing is being built is met with sufficient transport infrastructure.

Cllr Whitmore said "For years now, residents in the Greystones District have had to suffer from public transport and road infrastructure that cannot meet the demand placed on it by residents commuting on a daily basis. As a public representative for the area, I have raised this issue repeatedly with the National Transport Authority (NTA), Dublin Bus, Bus Eireann and Irish Rail. The response has always been the same - that there has been a lack of Government investment in public transport but that investment is planned for the future. However, this funding never seems to materialise, despite the many promises over the years."

"In fact, in the last couple of weeks, the NTA has admitted that even if an order for new carriages was placed today, it would be at



Cllr Jennifer Whitmore

least 4 years before they were available to be used because of manufacturing lead-in times.

"The much-heralded BusConnects proposal won't be finished until 2023, assuming it all goes according to schedule. And there are still no firm plans or funding available for the significant upgrade to the N11 that has been talked about now for years. So, in a best-case scenario, we are looking at 4 or 5 years before we will start seeing any transport

improvements.

"In the meantime, significant housing development is happening in the district, and in areas like Newtown and Wicklow Town, bringing more and more new residents and commuters into the area. Whilst new homes are welcome, they must be matched with the required corresponding infrastructure. A recent submission from Cairns for over 400 hundred units in Farrenkelly talked about how the development was close to the N11, a Dublin Bus service and the Dart. However, everyone that uses public transport or the N11 knows that these services are full to capacity and that they could not take any additional demand."

"At last night's monthly meeting of the Greystones District Council, I raised this as a significant issue. I have called for Wicklow

County Council to develop a Transport Plan, that will look at the lands that are zoned for development, and the travel demand that is associated with this land usage. There also needs to be a review of the current public transport and traffic patterns, and recommendations made as to what interventions are required to enable the sustainable development of the area. This information should be used to inform planning decisions and the next round of the local area plans to ensure that we have sustainable development of the district. I got full support from my Councillor colleagues for the motion, and I hope that the proposal is met favourably by the officials in Wicklow County Council. I will certainly continue to push for this critical issue."



Phylis Kavanagh and Delores Heatley of the Royal Bridge Club present a cheque for €770 to Wicklow RNLI. The donation was from the proceeds of a club competition held recently at Wicklow Sailing Club. Speaking after the presentation, Lifeboat Operations Manager Des Davitt thanked the members of the club for the donation and the support over the years. Pictured are Des Davitt (RNLI Operations Manager), Phylis Kavanagh, (Royal Bridge Club), RNLI Lifeboat volunteers Ger Kennedy and Ian Heffernan with Delores Heatley (Royal Bridge Club). Photo credit: RNLI Wicklow

'Wicklow commuter misery to continue as old plans re-announced'

Fianna Fáil TD Pat Casey says there is nothing new in the announcement from the Minister for Transport last week regarding new rail carriages.

Minister for Transport Shane Ross announced in a press conference last week that the Government is ordering an extra 41 rail carriages at a cost of €150 million. However, they are not expected to be fully in use until mid-2022.

Deputy Casey commented, "Yesterday's press conference is largely another media engagement to announce what we already have heard before from the Minister for Transport regarding rail capacity. The earliest these 41 rail carriages will be delivered is in two years' time. That's assuming they are ordered in the coming days."

"The urgent expansion of the rail fleet is needed particularly in Wicklow. The services are overcrowded and approaching dangerous levels. Safety rather than comfort is now a real concern for Wicklow commuters."

"The Minister must immediately outline contingency plans he intends to put in place to accommodate Wicklow commuters while these new carriages are on order. He cannot tell people to wait two years while demand outstrips capacity at an increasing rate."

"The Minister's suggestion to stagger journey times, and proposals to introduce pre-booked only services are an insult to hard working and long-suffering commuters."

"We need less photo calls from Minister Ross and more hands on and proactive actions to deal with today's problems. Running our public transport system on the never never is no longer a viable possibility. We cannot allow this capacity crisis to continue without credible contingency plans to facilitate commuters in Wicklow," concluded Deputy Casey.

Calls for 'dedicated transport police' to tackle anti-social behaviour on trains

Fianna Fáil TD Stephen Donnelly has said that a 'zero tolerance' approach is needed to deal with anti-social behaviour on trains, and has called for the establishment of a 'dedicated transport police'.

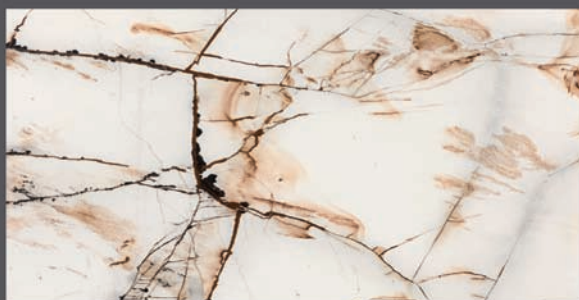
Deputy Donnelly explained, "Commuters travelling to or from our stations in Bray and Greystones need to know that they will be safe on their journey. They are entitled to travel in peace and comfort without being annoyed, threatened or sometimes even disgusted by the conduct of fellow passengers. I had a woman in my office tell me that a group of young men were urinating into bottles on her recent trip from Greystones into Dublin."

"Fianna Fáil got a breakdown of the stats from the Transport Minister which showed that there have been 785 incidents of anti-social behaviour on Irish trains so far this year - that's a rise from 572 in 2018 and a 14 percent increase on 2017. Now this shows a trend. It's clear that there's more anti-social behaviour happening than ever before."

"I believe what's necessary now is a dedicated transport police to tackle the problem. We need to crack down on the culprits to send a strong signal that it will no longer be tolerated", concluded Donnelly.

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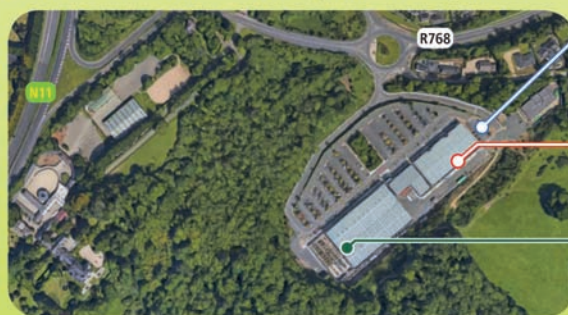


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Pictured is the Scoil Chualann team that participated in the Cumann na mBunscol Chill Mhantáin 3rd and 4th Class Boys Football Blitz, in Bray Emmets on Thursday 24th October. Proving to be a very popular event every year this year saw 16 schools (26 teams) take part.

Kilmac racer secures Motorsport Ireland Young Racing Driver of the Year Award nomination

Wicklow's Charlie Linnane has been selected as the fourth nominee for the 2019 Motorsport Ireland Young Racing Driver of the Year Award, for his performances in the month of July.

From Kilmacanogue, 22-year-old Linnane spent his 2019 season competing in the Irish Supercar Championship powered by Pirelli, where he took a brace of wins on his way to narrowly missing out on the title following the final 3 rounds of the series which took place at Brands Hatch last weekend.

Like many aspiring Irish racers, Linnane spent his formative years in Ginetta Juniors before stepping up to single seater racing in the Formula Sheane class. It was competing in this class that Linnane won the Bob Parks Memorial trophy which he ranks as

one of his best achievements to date. This was followed by a move back to saloon racing and the Supercar class where Linnane has raced since, where he has become a regular frontrunner.

When he's not racing, Charlie works full time in the family car dealership, John Linnane Motors, as a sales executive. John Linnane Motors are also one of Charlie's main sponsors along with Corcoran Crash Repairs. In the future, Charlie would love to race abroad, potentially in an endurance series or make a return to single seaters and build on his Formula Sheane experience.



Charlie Linnane

Having been selected as the fourth nominee for the 2019 season, Charlie is now a contender for the prestigious Motorsport Ireland Young Racing Driver of the Year Award and the historic Sexton Trophy. This award is presented annually and is supported by Sport Ireland and Motorsport Ireland. The remaining two nominees will be announced in the coming days.



Organise a GOAL Mile

Irish running legend, Sonia O'Sullivan, is leading a call-out for volunteers in Wicklow to get involved and organise a GOAL Mile in their communities this Christmas.

The GOAL Mile is the humanitarian aid agency, GOAL's, longest running and most popular fundraisers when thousands of people all over the country abandon the turkey and pudding and walk, run or jog a mile on Christmas Day. Last year more than 130 GOAL Miles took place throughout Ireland. In Wicklow alone there were five GOAL Miles throughout the county last year. This year, GOAL is calling on volunteers to continue their support of these events and for others to consider organising a new event in their community.

O'Sullivan, a GOAL patron, has been an advocate of the event for years now and gets out to do the GOAL Mile with family and friends in Australia every year where she is based.

She said: "The GOAL Mile is a fantastic way to raise money for GOAL's life-saving work overseas. Even in Australia, we do our own GOAL Mile so that we're giving back to people in need at a time when we all receive so much. I'm asking people in Wicklow, and all over Ireland, to make the GOAL Mile the best it's ever been and follow the simple steps to organising a GOAL Mile.

"There are only a few simple steps to organise a GOAL Mile in your community. GOAL supports organisers every step of the way to ensure the GOAL Mile is fun for all ages and fitness levels. 130 events took place last Christmas in nearly every county in 2018 and this year GOAL hopes to bring a GOAL Mile to every county.

Sonia's Simple Steps: Register your interest in hosting a GOAL Mile with GOAL at goalmile.org; Choose a date for the event (It doesn't have to be Christmas Day. Maybe St. Stephen's Day suits better?); Confirm your location and check with local authorities/landowners about using the space; Advertise your event with posters in the area and on social media - GOALies will be on hand to help; Collect donations on the day and award GOAL Mile Certificates to participants; Most importantly, have fun!

Alan Vard, GOAL Senior Development Manager, said it is hoped to have a GOAL Mile in proximity to everyone in Ireland this year: "Each year GOAL volunteers do

phenomenal work to organise 130 GOAL Miles throughout Ireland. We want to make the GOAL Mile available to people in all counties this year. We are asking volunteers to contact GOAL to set up their own GOAL Mile and reaching out to our current volunteers to get involved again."

GOALies are counting down the days until the GOAL Mile, the organisation's longest running fundraiser, kicks off. Now in its 38th year, the GOAL Mile has run annually since it was first held in the Phoenix Park, Dublin in 1982. You can play a part in this historical event by running an event this Christmas.

To organise a GOAL Mile this Christmas contact goalmile@goal.ie or visit goalmile.org.



Cameron Fenton racing at the Brands Hatch Circuit. Pic: Rachel Bourne

Fenton wins on supercar return

Cameron Fenton returned to the Irish Supercar series last weekend at Brands Hatch for the final three rounds of the 2019 series.

A pacesetter in the championship in 2018, the Greystones man received an invitation to compete at the event from championship organisers ASK Racing. As part of the famous Formula Ford Festival, the Supercars took to the track four times over the weekend, and Cameron was immediately on the pace. Despite being held up slightly on his fastest lap in qualifying, he was happy with second and a front row start for the opening race. When the lights went out, the class returnee made no mistakes to lead the pack through the famous Paddock Hill Bend and immediately got his head down to increase his lead. Despite two safety car interventions, which negated the lead, he crossed the line almost seven seconds to the good, to take the win, with fastest lap too.

Race two was, in Cameron's words, "one to forget" as he was hit from behind whilst running in third, right with the leaders. This left him starting at the back for the third and final race of the weekend.

With the blood up, the Fenton Fires backed driver was on a charge and was up to P7 by the second corner. By the start of lap two he was fourth, which became third with a run round the outside of Paul Parr at Druids. A brief Safety Car period closed the pack up again and once they were released, Fenton was on the attack once again. A run at Gary Corcoran out of Clearways annexed second and immediately afterwards he sliced down the inside of champion elect Philip Jones into Paddock Hill corner to take the lead- and subsequently the win.

Cameron Fenton said "It was an amazing experience to race on the famous Brands Hatch Indy Circuit both in very wet and dry weather. It is great to be able to step into such a high powered car after a full year and take another 2 first place trophies ahead of the 2019 class regulars. A big congratulations goes out to Philip Jones who took the 2019 Irish Supercar championship on Sunday.

"I want to say a huge thanks to Alan at ASK Racing for the car for the weekend and a big thanks to Kyle Draper for his non stop work ensuring the car was prepped and ready all weekend, and a big thanks to Dad and Charlotte for coming and supporting me throughout the weekend."

Wicklow artist goes from movie sets to the national stage showcasing at Art Source

An abstract artist from Wicklow Town who has worked with Hollywood royalty will showcase her talents - including wearable art - at Art Source at the RDS from November 15th-17th.

Kathrina Shine is a former draughtsperson, actor, set designer and award-winning short film producer who has worked with Morgan Freeman, Ben Kingsley, Pierce Brosnan, Brendan Gleeson, and Joanna Lumley.

She received the best short film award at the Belfast Film Festival in 2001 and her productions have been screened at 55 such festivals.

A storyteller and proponent of the impasto technique of painting, Kathrina creates vibrant narratives with knives, inks, strokes, semi-collages, and sometimes a liberal application of paint.

She has created an innovative way to wear her art well, and will display her fashionable work on trendy t-shirts, hoodies, dresses and leggings at Art Source.

The Wicklow Town resident returned to painting after shelving it for various careers as an architectural draftsman, actor, set designer and film producer.

Having fully embraced her artistic talent, she has staged five acclaimed exhibitions and her work can be found in the Office of Public Works (OPW) national collection and private collections around the world.

"I started off as an architectural draftsman, but quickly realised that the construction industry in the 1980s was no place for a woman," she said.

"I decided to pursue acting in Scotland and London before returning to Ireland where film making was really taking off.

"I constantly upskilled on film sets with Screen Training Ireland, learning from very high standard professionals, so I was eventually able to start my own production company with a varied skill set.

"It was hard. I was a single mother who had to work weeks away and I was only able to do it because of an amazing network of school mums and dads who used to help by minding and including my children for me."

It was during those years she worked with Freeman, Kingsley, Brosnan, Gleeson, and Lumley and won the Jury award best short film at the Belfast Film Festival with Petrol Country Blues.

As with her career, her art style is constantly changing and Kathrina has been described by critics as an abstract expressionist.

"I paint first and then I understand what I have

Painted. I never know exactly what's going to come out onto the canvas. What I do is very organic, and I follow my interest rather than anyone's rules.

"In my clothing range, I digitise the art and print on the t-shirts and hoodies. Then on other pieces, I stretch the work and tile it as a textile design."

The largest collection of Banksy's work exhibited on public show in Ireland is also set to feature at Art Source.

Gormleys Fine Art will be showing 12 screen prints by the anonymous

UK-based artist and political activist whose original piece Devolved Parliament recently sold for €10.9m.

Over 15,000 people are expected to attend the year's biggest and most exciting art show which will feature 200 of the best contemporary Irish and international artists and galleries.

Irish art lovers also have the unique chance to get their hands on 100 pieces of original artwork for €100 each on a first-come, first-served basis on the opening morning of the show on Friday,

November 15th.

The show features Our Beautiful Earth, a free children's workshop exploring the beauty of the planet's ecosystems, where youngsters can work creatively on a variety of subjects.

Art Source takes place at the RDS, Dublin, from November 15-17, admission is €10 adults, €8 OAPs. Children under 16 free if accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Opening times: Friday Nov 15: 11am-9pm, Sat Nov 16: 10am-6pm, Sun Nov 17: 10am-6pm.



Wicklow artist Kathrina Shine



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-2027

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Part II Section 11 (1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) that Wicklow County Council intends to review the Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022 and prepare a new County Development Plan for its functional area for the period 2021-2027.

In compliance with the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC) and in accordance with Article 13B of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004) (as amended), the Planning Authority proposes to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as part of the review of the existing Development Plan and preparation of a new Development Plan. For this purpose, the Planning Authority will prepare an Environmental Report of the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the new Plan and the provisions of Articles 13C to 13J of Regulations shall apply.

Pursuant to the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), a Stage One Appropriate Assessment Screening of the proposed new plan shall be carried out as part of the overall process and a Stage Two Appropriate Assessment shall subsequently be carried out, if required.

Public Consultation

Submissions or observations regarding the review of the existing plan and the preparation of a new County Development Plan are hereby invited from the public and interested bodies. Submissions may be made during the period from Wednesday 6th November 2019 to Friday 10th January 2020.

Children, or groups or associations representing the interests of children, are entitled to make submissions or observations.

While a review of the detailed policies, objectives (including zoning provisions) and development standards contained in the plan shall occur as part of the plan making process, this stage of the plan review process is 'STRATEGIC' in nature, in that it is for the purposes of developing:

- the objectives and policies to deliver an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the County
- the 'Core Strategy' of the plan

and in this regard the Planning Authority shall take account of the statutory obligations of the local authority and any relevant policies or objectives for the time being of the Government or of any Minister of the Government.

Therefore submission or observations may be made regarding the overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. Requests or proposals for zoning of particular land for any purpose shall not be considered at this stage and should not be made.

To assist this process, the Council have a webpage dedicated to the review of the County Development Plan and have prepared an 'Issues Paper' which identifies the kind of planning issues that the next County Development Plan will address. A copy of this document can be obtained from the Wicklow County Council website www.wicklow.ie and hard copies are also available at the following locations from Wednesday 06 November 2019 during normal opening hours:

Arklow

Arklow Municipal District Office, Castle Park, Arklow

Blessington

Blessington Civic Offices, Blessington Business Park, Blessington

Bray

Bray Municipal District Office, Civic Offices, Main Street, Bray

Greystones

Greystones Municipal District Office, Mill Road, Greystones

Wicklow Town

Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Station Road, Wicklow Town

All Wicklow public libraries

Public information days, when staff from the Development Plan team will be available to answer questions and to assist in making a submission will be held at the following locations:

Greystones

Greystones Municipal District Office, Mill Road, Greystones
Wednesday 13th November 2019 4pm – 7.30pm

Baltinglass

Baltinglass Library, Weaver's Square, Baltinglass
Thursday 14th November 2019 4pm – 7.30pm

Bray

Bray Municipal District Office, Civic Offices, Main Street, Bray
Wednesday 20th November 2019 4pm – 7.30pm

Wicklow

County Buildings, Wicklow County Council, Station Road, Wicklow Town
Thursday 21st November 2019 4pm – 7.30pm

Arklow

Arklow Municipal District Office, Castle Park, Arklow
Wednesday 27th November 2019 4pm – 7.30pm

Blessington

Blessington Library, New Town Centre, Blessington, Co Wicklow
Thursday 28th November 2019 4pm – 7.30pm

Submissions may be made in one of the following ways:

1. Write to: Administrative Officer, Forward Planning, Wicklow County Council, Station Road, Wicklow Town
2. Email to: planreview@wicklowcoco.ie
3. Online: Make a submission via the online consultation portal on www.wicklow.ie

NOTE

- YOU ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO MAKE YOUR SUBMISSION AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.
- All submissions are to be clearly marked with 'Wicklow County Development Plan'.
- All submissions should include your name and a contact address, a map (where appropriate) and, where relevant, details of any organisation, community group or company etc., which you represent.
- Please make your submission by one medium only, i.e. hard copy / e-mail / website.
- All submissions will form a part of the statutory Chief Executive's report to be presented to the elected members of Wicklow County Council.
- Please be advised that all submissions received will be published online in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act. You should ensure that no vexatious, libellous or confidential information, including confidential information relating to a third party (in respect of which the third party has not, expressly, or impliedly in the circumstances, consented to its disclosure) is included in your submission. The Planning Authority reserves the right to redact any submission or part thereof that does not comply with this requirement. Please be advised that the name of the person(s)/group(s) who made the submission will be published, but personal data will be redacted.
- LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Wicklow County Council is committed to Access For All. All of the above documents are available in alternative format on request. Please contact Wicklow County Council on 0404-20100 should you have any specific access requirements.



Photographer Boris Albert and Minister Simon Harris at Boris's Wurzburg photography exhibition in the Civic Offices in Bray

Appeal to ABP over refusal of Newcastle timber facility

An appeal has been lodged with An Bord Pleanála following Wicklow County Council's decision to refuse permission for a proposed timber products manufacturing facility on Timmore Lane, Newcastle.

Warmridge Ltd is appealing to ABP after the Council refused permission in September. The Council's planner's report recommended refusing permission for the development due to the site's rural location.

The Council's Development Plan 2016-2022 sets out the objective to channel industrial/commercial/ employment development into serviced centres and to restrict development in rural areas to developments that comply with specific criteria. The planner's report states that the proposed manufacturing activity does not have a 'locational need' to be situated in this rural area and therefore does not comply with the specified criteria. Additionally, the Planner's Report also states that the development would result in a traffic hazard due to the traffic movements that it generated.

The proposed development would include a timber products manufacturing workshop and parking facilities, access road and ancillary site development works. Access would be from Timmore Lane through the existing entrance and the overall development would also include improvement works to Timmore Lane and to the R772/Timmore Lane junction. The case is due to be decided by 25th February 2020.

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Science Foundation Ireland to host free tree planting events across Wicklow

Science Foundation Ireland are calling on the people of Wicklow to be a part of Science Week 2019. This year, Science Week focuses on climate action with a number of ways for those in Wicklow to get involved, from attending a tree planting or planting your own tree to attending a Science Week event or joining the conversation online.

Science Week 2019 is the perfect opportunity to find out more about what climate change means to you and how science can help us understand the facts behind climate action and the solutions for it.

Running from 10th-17th November, Science Week's aim is to bring science and climate action to the fore of the public's minds through fun, engaging and interactive events.

As part of Science Week, Science Foundation Ireland, in association with Coillte, is supporting the national effort to plant 440 million trees by 2040. Coillte have kindly provided 30,000 trees to Science Foundation Ireland to be planted during Science Week. In conjunction with the Tree Council of Ireland and Easy Treesie, there will be tree planting events taking place across

Wicklow where you can find out what trees do for our environment, which trees suit the Irish ecosystem the best and how you can plant your own trees at home.

Trees are essential to our ecosystem, as they reduce carbon and release oxygen into the atmosphere and as the Trillion Trees initiative drives the global movement behind tree planting forward, Science Week wants you to get involved and make a difference in Ireland.

The Tree planting campaign is one of many fantastic interactive elements happening throughout the week, with hundreds of other events set to take place across the county.

Commenting on Science Week, Dr Ruth Freeman, Director of Science for Society Science Foundation Ireland said: "Science Foundation Ireland is

delighted to invite the people of Wicklow to take part in Science Week, from learning about why trees can play a significant part in our response to climate change, to having the opportunity to enjoy science at the many engaging events across the county. Science Week is a fantastic opportunity for the people of Wicklow to discover, create and engage with science."

Mark Carlin, Managing Director of Coillte said: "We are extremely proud to partner with Science Foundation Ireland for this exciting climate action initiative. Trees play a vital role in sustaining our environment, economy and communities, and I greatly welcome the work that teachers and parents do to engage young people in growing a greater understanding of the science of trees and the important

role they play in climate change.

For this year's Science Week, we have donated over 30,000 trees, such as; Oak, Birch, Alder, Ash and Chestnut to the Science Festival, and we hope that the planting of these trees will start conversations around the country about the benefits of both trees and well managed forests taking on climate change."

For those unable to attend an event, keep an eye out for the #ScienceWeek on all social channels and RTE, and get involved by engaging in the climate action conversation.

The free tree planting Wicklow events will be taking place during Science Week, for more information visit www.ScienceWeek.ie.

Glenmalure Rural Energy Group secure funding from SEAI for local Energy Master Plan

Glenmalure Rural Energy Group (GREG) are hosting an Information evening on Thursday 14th November at 8pm in Ballinacor Community Centre, in Glenmalure. Participants could win a free house energy audit worth €250. Everyone is welcome to attend.

GREG in conjunction with Wicklow County Council has been successful in applying for funding through the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) - Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) programme. The funding is for the completion of an Energy Master Plan for the Glenmalure, Ballinacash and Greenan area and its environs.

3 Counties Energy Agency (3CEA) has been appointed by Wicklow County Council to complete the Energy Master Plan for GREG. 3CEA work closely with Wicklow County Council in managing their energy consumption, and work with community groups to improve and reduce energy usage. Hugh McLindon, GREG Chairperson, explains that "the purpose of the Energy Master Plan is to make communities more aware of their energy consumption and to identify energy saving opportunities through a tailored work plan for the locality".

GREG are encouraging as many people as possible to get involved and are holding an important Information evening on Thursday 14th November at 8pm in Ballinacor Community Centre.

Brian Dunne from GREG explains that "a presentation by 3CEA on the night will outline the project and showcase how everyone in the area can participate". The initial step will be a gathering of baseline data of energy usage.

GREG was set up in May 2018 and includes many hardworking volunteers who are committed to encouraging local climate actions and reducing carbon emissions in the Glenmalure area.

Anita Wheeler, local volunteer from GREG, explains "that positive proactive climate action is necessary now in our communities. It begins in our homes and like seeds of change, spreads throughout our community, eventually making a national impact".

For more information email glenmalureruralenergy@gmail.com.

'More action needed to stop plastic pollution at source'

Responding to the news that the government are preparing to ban microbeads, Green Party MEP Grace O'Sullivan said: "I'm very happy to see the government finally acting on this obvious step to reduce plastic pollution flowing to our seas.

"It's three years since I moved my own bill to get rid of microbeads, and this is only a very small step in controlling the flow of marine litter to our seas and oceans. We need much, much more action, far, far faster to deal with the ecological disaster we can see unfolding. The government could start by allowing the Green Party Waste Prevention Bill, to help stem the flow of this plastic waste at the source."

Commenting on the news that a new expert group will be formed to advise on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Karin Dubsky, the Green Party candidate in the Wexford by-election and well-known marine ecologist and activist, said: "The Marine Protected Areas advisory group is an excellent government initiative which should not only signal the expansion of our sad little 2.3% MPA network, but also a new approach where MPAs are identified with public participation and proudly supported locally.

"While Ireland will not make our EU and UN targets for the start of 2020, it can make very significant progress over the next few months, with bigger and better MPAs as indicators."

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Patrick Power with artist Michelle Harton at her exhibition in the Visual Arts Gallery in Arklow last week.

The Way we Art by Bray Artists Circle

Bray Artst Circle's 'The Way We Art' exhibition can be seen in the Signal Arts Centre from November 25th to December 8th.

Bray Artists' Circle has been providing opportunities for local artists to develop their artistic talent since 2003. The members range from artists who have been painting for many years, to others who have taken it up more recently as a hobby.

A cross-section of styles and media preferences from oils to watercolour, acrylics to pastels is displayed within the group. While there is no formal teaching, more experienced artists are willing to give advice as members work on their own subject preferences in a relaxed atmosphere.

Workshops led by professional artists are organised annually. Trips to art galleries such as the National Gallery have also been organised for members. Some members have also travelled to France, Spain and Italy for painting workshops.

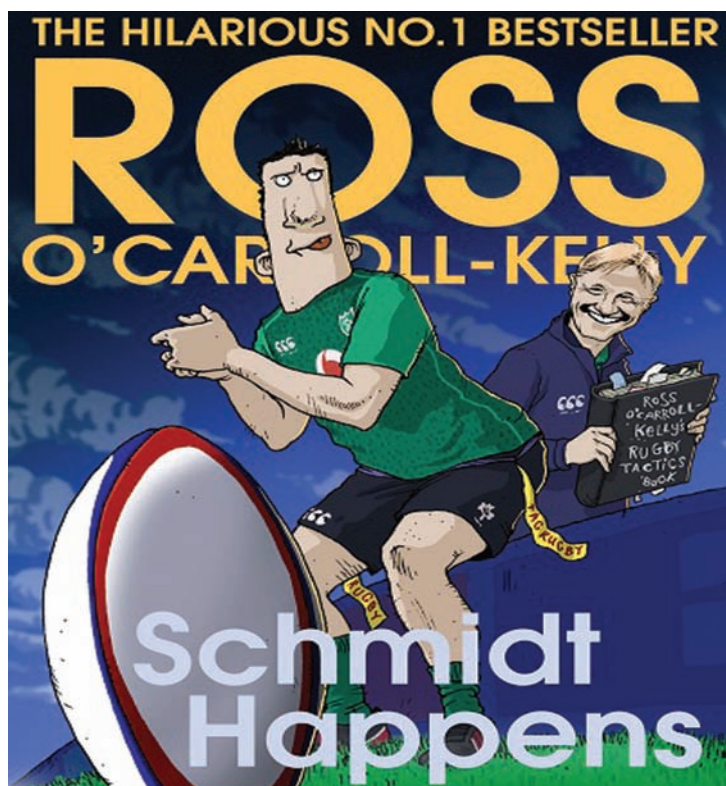
The group meet throughout the year on Monday evenings for two hours in St. Cronan's B.N.S., Bray. At present there are approximately 25 members many of which have successfully sold their work in a variety of exhibitions.

The Opening Reception is on Thursday 28th November, 7pm - 9pm. All are welcome to attend.

'Schmidt Happens' at Whale Theatre, Greystones

Paul Howard, the author behind Ross O'Carroll-Kelly, comes to the Whale Theatre in Greystones this month with 'Schmidt Happens'.

Howard is a multi-award-winning journalist, author, playwright, comedian and screenwriter best known as the creator of Ross O'Carroll-Kelly, a fictional rugby jock whose exploits have been the subject of 18 satirical novels that have sold more than one million copies and won three Irish Book Awards.



He is the author of four hugely successful Ross O'Carroll-Kelly plays, which enjoyed long, sell-out runs and remounts in Dublin, Cork and Limerick. He also wrote the book and lyrics for two successful musicals: 'Anglo: The Musical', a puppet-based comedy about the collapse of Ireland's banks, in 2012; and 'Copper Face Jacks: The Musical', which enjoyed a sell-out run in the summer of 2018.

The format of the night will include three or four readings of Ross O'Carroll-Kelly adventures, complete with voices, intercut with funny stories and anecdotes gathered from his twenty-one years writing about the character of Ross O'Carroll-Kelly. Not only that he will also happy to take questions from the audience.

Friday 15th November at 8pm (Doors 7pm) Tickets €27

www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550

YARN Storytelling Festival returns for the 10th Year

Mermaid Arts Centre is bringing YARN Storytelling Festival Bray for the tenth year from 9th - 17th November. YARN is a community based non-profit making festival that strives to bring the art-form of storytelling to as many people of all ages in the community as possible.

This year's programme is brimming with top storytellers and performers, both from Ireland and abroad.

The festival kicks off on Saturday 9 November with an Irish language storytelling event upstairs in the Town Hall with storyteller Cillian Brennan from Cork entitled "Ó Bhotháin go Caisleáin". Admission is free and this event is suitable for kids aged 5+. Cillian then moves up to the farm market in Killruddery for "Shortening the Road" - some tales in English before the fire in The Shoot Room at 2pm. Admission is once again free of charge and the event is suitable for ages 5+.

On Saturday afternoon storyteller Philip Byrne is holding a fun participatory workshop in aid of Greystones Cancer Support in The Martello and on Saturday evening at 8pm join storyteller Helena Byrne upstairs in the Town Hall for "Supernatural Ireland" - not for the faint hearted! Tickets for this event are on sale now and cost €12/10. This event is for adults (16+).

On Sunday 10th November join us in the People's Park at noon for Poetry in the Park with a tale or two by Philip Byrne. Admission free and all ages welcome. On Sunday afternoon grab your seat and hang on tight, Niall de Búrca is

coming to Mermaid Arts Centre with his family show "World Tales". Tickets cost €5 and are selling fast so don't delay!

YARN is delighted to welcome Moth and Butterfly from Galway on Sunday 10 November at 7pm. Described as 'Galway's most magical arts night', Moth and Butterfly is a storytelling event with huge heart. The tellers combine short true personal stories, fiction/folk tales with improvised stories, as well as inviting audience tellers to participate. Each night of stories has a theme, and for YARN that theme is 'The Connection'.

Tellers are Órla McGovern, Catherine Brophy and Niceol Blue with a fourth teller to be confirmed. For more information see Mermaid's website.

Mermaid is thrilled this year to welcome one of Iceland's top storytellers Hjórléifur Stefánsson. Hjórléifur has collected and shared tales for years, both with his kids, audiences and his sheep. Giants, trolls, hidden people and ghosts are his companions as well as Icelanders of the past and their traditions of song and stories. Hjórléifur will be busy in schools and libraries all week but the public will have a chance to hear his tales in Frank Duff's Lounge on Wednesday 13th November at 8pm (18+) and he will perform for

kids in both Killruddery and Fassaroe Community Centre on Saturday 16th November.

The Maritime History of Bray will be presented in Mermaid on Tuesday 12th November by Brian White of Bray Cualann Historical Society. Who knew that bathing goggles were invented in Bray? Come along to hear more!

Two schools show take place during YARN week also - primary schools have the great opportunity to come and see Susie and the Story Shredder, presented by Bombinate Theatre and secondary pupils have the unique chance to join Niall de Búrca for Sophies' Tale - set in World War 2.

Thursday 14 November the much loved Candlelit Tales will be joined by Aindreas de Staic upstairs in The Harbour Bar at 8pm performing "Setting Sail on a Voyage Tale". This event is sponsored by The Harbour Bar and the €5 payable on the door goes 100% to the RNLI Lifeboats in Dun Laoghaire in order to help purchase new equipment. Please come along and show your support.

Tony Doyle brings his show Weekend Warrior to Mermaid Arts Centre on Thursday 14th straight from the Dublin Fringe Festival. This powerful one man performance based on a young man's attempts to give up drink and drugs is not to be missed. Niall de Búrca is

back on stage on Friday 15 November with his "Hooley of Tales" which is for adults (16+). Tickets on sale now and cost €12/10.

We are delighted to welcome Liz Weir MBE to Bray on Saturday 19 November for a day-long workshop on telling stories for and with older people living with dementia. This is a really fantastic opportunity to learn from one of Ireland's greatest experts in this field.

Kids will have mighty fun at Storytelling Yoga with Nicola Foxe in Mermaid on Saturday morning (16th November) and on Saturday evening join Colum Sands for his new show "Song Bridge". Colum Sands has spent much of his life travelling the world, crossing borders and building bridges with the power of his songs and stories. The Speks wrap up YARN for us on Sunday 17 November at 2pm. Tickets are almost sold out so don't delay! Storyteller and artist Paul Timoney is Mermaid's Storyteller in Residence for 2019. Paul is working with secondary pupils in North Wicklow Educate Together. Join us in Mermaid's Gallery during YARN to see the results of their work.

Full information can be found on Mermaid's website at www.mermaidarts-centre.ie or by calling box office on 01-2724030.



Join storyteller Helena Byrne as she delves into that which remains unexplained, with tales of spirits and demonic energies across Ireland, haunted buildings that carry the weight of their history into the present day, and accounts of personal experiences that have shaken the staunchest of sceptics. Saturday 9th November, 8pm. Tickets: €12/10. Venue: Town Hall, Bray (Upstairs).

Bray & Greystones Tidy Towns

Bray & Greystones have won silver medals at this year's Tidy Towns awards, it was announced last week.

Both towns this year had to wait a little longer for a decision due to a technical/administrative issue, by which their entries were not received by the Department of Rural and Community Development; but both have subsequently received silver medal awards.

Bray received a mark of 321, improving its marks from last year across all categories. The judge's report stated that "You are the caretakers of beautiful Bray which has an embarrassment of natural, historical and architectural heritage riches! However, most importantly Bray clearly has a local community of residents and visitors who cherish their local place and have a fantastic strength of community spirit. This has taken you far and bodes well for the future of Bray - we look forward to Bray Tidy Towns' future competition entries and the continuation of current and

fruition of future great plans."

The report singled out numerous areas for praise including the work carried out around the train station and the War memorial on Quinsboro Road, People's Park, the re-landscaped Herbert Road carpark, and landscaping of the Dargle River walk.

The report also praised the establishment of the North Wicklow Environmental Network as "a terrific initiative - various groups and individuals working together sharing their knowledge and experience is always a good idea."

Greystones also improved its marks in every category from last year. The report praised Greystones Tidy Towns as "a dynamic and very active group and the wider Greystones community is very lucky to have you! You are on top of all the categories and display great knowledge and inter-

est in all. You are lucky to have such a beautiful area as Greystones to live and work in with its mix of beautiful architecture, coastal habitats and rural hinterland. It is clear, however, that you know and cherish this so Greystones has a bright future ahead with you looking after it. Congratulations on all your efforts this year and we look forward to your progression in the competition into the future."

The adjudicator was particularly impressed by projects such as The Bugs Green Project and Community Orchard.

Minister Simon Harris TD congratulated the Wicklow tidy towns committees on their success in the 2019 National Tidy Towns Competitions. Bray and Greystones achieved silver medals whilst Arklow won a gold medal. Minister Harris said: "I am delighted to see the endorsement of the steady



work of the Tidy Towns Committees in Bray, Greystones and Arklow. The community spirit and selfless dedication of volunteers in our community is a great example of what can be achieved by strong communities and demonstrates why Wicklow is a great place to live. I want to wish all the Tidy Towns Committees in Wicklow every success in the year ahead."

Welcoming the results for both towns, Minister Andrew Doyle said "Both Bray & Greystones have

very active and dedicated Tidy Towns groups who work very hard every year to ensure these scenic coastal towns of Wicklow are looking their best all year round.

"The Department realised very quickly that several omissions had been made in error including the Bray and Greystones' entries from Co. Wicklow and made arrangements and reassurances to ensure proper and swift adjudication would follow for the relevant towns.

"I am delighted to learn

that all is now rectified and that the Bray & Greystones results have been released. 2019 has been another great year for Tidy Towns which symbolises everything that is great about community spirit in Ireland. There were over 900 entries nationwide this year with the overarching theme of 'Caring for the Environment' which conveys the relevance and importance of this annual competition.

"This latest announcement for Bray & Greystones means that

more funding will be awarded to 32 community groups across Co. Wicklow for this year's competition. The official Results booklet for the 2019 competition will be updated and awards arising from this recent adjudication will be presented at the Regional Awards later in the year. The Department of Rural and Community Development has apologised to the small number of groups who were omitted from the initial adjudication process and is reviewing its process to ensure this does not happen again.

"It's important to acknowledge Tidy Towns committees all over Ireland who work away quietly and effectively every year with huge voluntary effort and to achieve a range of diverse and extraordinary projects across the country and I would again urge people and community groups to check out the Tidy Towns website for information about your local committee, how to

get involved and how to apply for funding."

Fianna Fáil Health spokesperson Stephen Donnelly has offered his congratulations to all members of the Bray and Greystones Tidy Towns teams.

Deputy Donnelly explained, "They say good things come to those who wait - well this is proof that the old saying is true. It was very unfortunate that both towns had been left out of the original judging."

"I believe that applications disappeared from as many as seven areas. Reps from Tidy Towns say that they never received their emails and while we don't know exactly what happened, what is clear is the fact that they need to learn from this incident and do whatever it takes to ensure it never happens again."

"The amount of time and effort that Tidy Towns volunteers invest cannot be underestimated. I'm really delighted all that hard work has now paid off," concluded Donnelly.

Congratulations and best wishes to the Greystones Tidy Towns team from

FELTON MCKNIGHT SOLICITORS

Church Road,
Greystones, Co Wicklow.
Tel: 01 287 4341/287 4281
Email: info@feltonmcknight.ie

Stephen Donnelly

Working for the people of Wicklow and East Carlow

Huge congratulations to Bray & Greystones on their Silver Tidy Towns awards. You did us proud!



For Clinics T: 01-2017300

E: Stephen.Donnelly@Oireachtas.ie

www.stephendonnely.ie

Cllr. Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien

Working for Bray, Kilmac & Enniskerry

Congratulations to all involved with Bray Tidy Towns



E: dermotobriensf@gmail.com
1st Floor, 27 Main St., Bray, Co. Wicklow

Cllr. Derek Mitchell



fine gael

Best Wishes to our Tidy Towns committee and all those who helped

Kiltoorish, Manor Avenue,
Greystones, Co. Wicklow.
Phone: 01-2874115
www.derekmitchell.ie



ANDREW DOYLE TD
Minister of State for Food, Forestry & Horticulture
Congratulations to Greystones and Bray Tidy Towns

FINE GAEL
Andrew Doyle - Minister of State for Food, Forestry and Horticulture
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Wicklow/East Carlow Constituency
2a The Lower Mall, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow, A67 EH66
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Kathie Orr, Ana Vapnisen and Niamh Maguire at the KWETB Adult Education Awards

QQI Certificates presented to Bray Adult Learning Centre students

Bray Adult Learning Centre welcomed KWETB Chief Executive Deirdre Keyes and Director of Further Education and Training, Ken Seery on Monday 21st October for the presentation of certificates to students who completed QQI (Quality and Qualifications Ireland) courses at the Centre in 2018-19.

Tutors and students joined together to celebrate all the hard work undertaken during the last year. Ken Seery congratulated the students on their achievements and presented QQI Component and Major Awards to over 60 adult learners. Niamh Maguire, Coordinator of Bray Adult Learning acknowledged the effort and commitment it takes to return to learning as an adult and told the students they should be proud of their achievements. Students Rosie and Ana outlined how much their skills and confidence have grown over the last few years. The students were joined in their celebrations by their tutors and family and friends who support and encourage them as they progress on their learning journey.

Bray Adult Learning Centre provides a first step back into education for adult learners who wish to return to education and improve their basic skills. The Centre offers a wide range of part-time courses and QQI modules at Levels 2, 3 and 4. This year students received certificates to in a range of subjects including Reading, Writing, Communications, Internet Skills, Maths, English for Speakers of Other Languages, Digital Media, Desktop Publishing, Teamworking, Office Skills and Computer Applications.

Over 300 students completed part-time courses at the centre in the last year. Many of these programmes were aimed at people developing the skills and confidence needed for the changing economy and society. Courses at the Adult Learning Centre are a great start for anyone who is thinking about returning to education or up-skilling for the job market.

Arklow vet to present dairy research findings at Nuffield Ireland Conference

Nuffield Ireland, the independent organisation which identifies future leaders in the Irish agricultural sector, hosts its annual conference on Friday 15th November. Among this year's speakers is Tommy Heffernan, a vet and animal health specialist living in Arklow.

Tommy will present his report on: A cow-centered approach to modern dairy farming. The report examines the signals for success in dairy farming; the influence on people on the health and performance of dairy cow.

Tommy discovered that the biggest impact on cow health and happiness were human interactions, and therefore there is an opportunity to improve education around the biological needs of the modern dairy cow. Speaking about his findings he said, "I felt many current negative perceptions of agriculture are wrong and sometimes can even be affecting the mental well-being of farmers in the extreme. A cow centred approach affords us the opportunity to battle



Tommy Heffernan

many of negative perceptions around dairy farming."

This year's conference aims to discuss agriculture's role in growing a healthy, sustainable society and will challenge the Nuffield community to consider and act on sustainability initiatives to balance their relatively intensive agriculture systems.

This topic will be addressed in a panel discussion with Brendan

Gleeson, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Professor Alan Matthews, Trinity College, Dublin and Professor Alice Stanton, Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland and Devenish Nutrition.

Other 2018 scholars who have completed their research and travels include: Colm O'Leary from a family dairy farm near Blarney in Co. Cork will present the findings of his report: Farmer-led Animal Welfare - an opportunity for the livestock industry; Joe Lyng from a sheep and beef farm in Inistioge, Co. Kilkenny and currently Ruminant Business Manager with Glanbia will present the findings

of his report on: The value in the market for grass-fed dairy product; Karol Kissane, a dairy farmer from Asdee in North Kerry will present the findings of his report: A review of perceptions of agriculture among primary school students and opportunities for developments; Klaus Laitenberger from Germany and living in Leitrim is currently an organic farm and garden inspector for the Organic Trust. He will present his report on: The potential of growing Yacon and Jerusalem artichokes as crops and functional foods in Ireland.

Tickets for the conference are available to book now on www.nuffield.ie.

Arklow Municipal District hosts Tidy Towns civic reception

The achievement of the Tidy Towns groups within the Arklow area was marked with a Civic Reception in their honour by members of Arklow Municipal District recently.

The reception was held in the Arklow Bay Hotel on 24th October for Arklow Tidy Towns Volunteer Group, Arklow Tidy Towns, Community Employment Group Aughrim Tidy Towns, Clean-up Aughrim, Rathdrum Tidy Towns, Avoca Tidy Towns and Ballycoog Tidy Towns.

Also invited were people interested in volunteering with existing groups and those hoping to get a Tidy Towns group set up in their own area.

Arklow Municipal District villages and towns were in four different categories of the annual National Tidy Town Competition.

Two towns achieved medal status which places them within a set range of this year's winning score, next step is to win the category award and ultimately be Ireland's tidiest town. This year's results showed a much-deserved increase

in points for all entrants.

The Tidy Towns event each year instils pride in the community and the desire to protect our landscape and heritage for the generations to come. This has been evident in Arklow this year through the work been put in by many of the volunteers and community employment groups in opening up old walkways around the town that had become overgrown.

The Tidy Towns initiative gets people both out working for the community and being active. It is hoped the improvements around the town will encourage people to walk around the town and admire the wonderful visual heritage Arklow has to offer.

Aughrim's improvements along the river from the Sean Lenihan's walk down to the Aughrim River deserves high praise and the judges were particularly impressed with

this area. This, along with Jim's Way walk, provide peaceful refuge for both resident and visitor alike.

Aughrim and Arklow Tidy Towns groups were presented with plaques and a small token of appreciation for their work throughout the year and for achieving medal status in the 2019 awards.

Speaking on the night, Cllr Pat Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach, Arklow MD, expressed his thanks to all the volunteers, groups and the members of the outdoor staff of Arklow Municipal District for their continued efforts in keeping the district tidy and looking it best.

He stated: "The dedication, commitment and passion of the volunteer groups is something to be proud of. It shows how local volunteers take ownership of their surroundings and work to improve them for both now and in the future."

Wicklow men complete Corinthian Challenge for Irish Injured Jockeys

Irish Injured Jockeys is a national charity that raises money and awareness for injured jockeys. Leopardstown Racecourse hosted the final leg of The Corinthian Challenge Charity Race Series where Meath man, Paddy Woods was crowned the 2019 Corinthian Challenge Champion. Wicklow men, Neil Durkan and Jerry Horan rode in their final race of the series, a challenge that they committed to several months ago and one that has involved a great deal of training and preparation.

Neil and Jerry have ridden at The Curragh Racecourse, Cork Racecourse Mallow and also Leopardstown Racecourse and have made great friends with their fellow Corinthians along the way. They said they would like to thank their family and friends for their support throughout the challenge and everyone who has helped them along the way especially those who have donated what they could to their fundraising targets. It is not too late to support their fundraising efforts, anyone who would like to donate can do so at corinthianchallenge.com.

Retired Champion

Jump Jockey, Ruby Walsh, Chairman of Irish Injured Jockeys said "Irish Injured Jockeys (IJJ) 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 IJJ are most grateful for their efforts."

Michael Higgins,



Neil Durkan



Jerry Horan

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 partici-

pants 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!"

€27,600 funding for climate and biodiversity projects

Some 27,600 has been allocated to 29 climate and biodiversity projects in Co. Wicklow.

Welcoming the allocation, Minister Simon Harris said "I am delighted to confirm the funding to successful applicants around Co. Wicklow. 29 biodiversity projects were allocated grants by the Environment Fund Award and matching funding from Wicklow County Council.

"All of these initiatives are determined to tackle climate change and promote biodiversity in our local areas. Local, community led initiatives are crucial to delivering the ambition set out in the Climate Action Plan. These projects offer people a tangible, practical

way to do their part to tackle the climate challenge and feel more connected to their local community as a result.

"We have a short window of opportunity. We must act now and get behind the transition to a more sustainable path for future generations."

Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment, Richard Bruton said: "It is by working together and supporting these grassroots initiatives that we can deliver the step change required.

"Over 1,028 projects have been successful this year, driving real change

in local communities across the country. Almost €1million (€460,000 from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment matched by funding from local authorities) is available to support hundreds of projects in local communities all across Ireland."

Minister Bruton said: "We have a short window of opportunity. We must act now and get behind the transition to a more sustainable path for future generations."

Minister Andrew Doyle said that the funding will go to: St Johns NS, St Laurences NS, Grangecon

TT, Hollywood NS, Avoca NS, Newcastle Community Centre, Wicklow Aquanauts, Tearnann Community Garden, Greystones, Arklow, Grangecon Tidy Towns, Vallemount Parish, Arklow CBS, The Bee Sanctuary of Ireland, Edible Bray, East Wicklow Rivers Trust, Fernhill Residents Ass., Gaelscoil na Lochanna, Greystones Brownies, Irish Peatland Conservation Council, Janus Innovations, workshops for schools, Sustainability Education, Greystones CodeDojo and Marine Dimensions.



Pictured at Jamie The Magician in The Martello in Bray last week were Conor and Sophie Peakin. Pic: Joe Keogh

Cystic Fibrosis Ireland Launches Malin2Mizen Cycle4CF 2020

With Ireland having the highest rates of cystic fibrosis in the world and some of the most severe types of the disease-over 1,300 people are living with Cystic Fibrosis here currently-Cystic Fibrosis Ireland (CFI) launched their Malin2Mizen Cycle4CF 2020 which takes place on Thursday May 7th - Sunday May 10th (www.cfireland.ie).

The aim is to raise awareness and funds to help provide support and services for people with Cystic Fibrosis nationally. These include support grants for people with cystic fibrosis for exercise, transplant assessment, fertility treatment and counselling, as well as research and new healthcare facilities.

CFI recently received amazing support from

around the country for their Malin2Mizen Cycle4CF 2019, with 40 cyclists raising over €137,000. This cycle continues to raise much needed funds for to help provide vital supports and services for people with Cystic Fibrosis in Ireland and the cyclists get the opportunity to take in the incredible scenic routes across Ireland as they pedal for this great cause.

The four day cycle starts in Malin Head, County Donegal and finishes in Mizen Head, County Cork.

Speaking about the Malin2Mizen Cycle4CF, Fergal Smyth, Fundraising Manager with Cystic Fibrosis Ireland, called for people to register now for the cycle to help support people with Cystic Fibrosis in Ireland: "In the 2019 cycle, 40

cyclists raised over €137,000 which will help fund grant payments for people with Cystic Fibrosis supporting them in areas such as Exercise, Transplant, Bereavement, Fertility and Counselling. I would encourage anyone who is interested in joining us for what promises to be another great event to register now on www.cfireland.ie."

'Electric car owners shouldn't be restricted by driving test'

The Fianna Fáil Health Spokesperson Stephen Donnelly has called for the drivers of electric vehicles not to be limited by the driving test.

Deputy Donnelly explained, "At the moment the rules mean if you take your driving test in an electric car you're license is restricted to similar vehicles. Electric cars have no traditional gears or gearbox, but despite that fact the Road Safety Authority, who's responsible for the testing system, treats cars like automatic vehicles and drivers are restricted in a similar manner. This makes absolutely no sense at a time when we're supposed to be encouraging people to be environmentally responsible.

"We recently had the announcement that the Department of the Environment is to fund up to 1,000 on-street public charge points across the country for electric vehicles over the next five years. This is great news as it proves that the Government is listening to those of us who've been warning we need to start moving away from fossil fuels."



SCÉIM UM FHEABHSÚ ACOMHAL 4 GO HACOMHAL 14 AN N11/M11 – COMHAIRLIÚCHÁN POIBLÍ UIMH. 2

Tá forbairt Scéim um Fheabhsú Acomhal 4 go hAcomhal 14 an N11/M11 á cur chun cinn ag Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin i gcomhar le Comhairle Contae Dhún Laoghaire-Ráth an Dúin. Tá an tionscadal á bhainistiú ag Oifig Bóithre Náisiúnta Chill Dara agus tá Arup ceaptha mar an bpríomh-shainchomhairleach chun an tionscadal a chur chun cinn go dtí an próiseas pleanála agus deartha.

Is é is cuspóir leis an gcomhairliúchán poiblí an pobal a chur ar an eolas faoi na roghanna iompair a forbraíodh go dtí seo chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar na fadhbanna a sainaithníodh, na srianta a sainaithníodh go dtí seo agus an clár chun an tionscadal a chur chun cinn.

Tá comhairliúchán poiblí ina chuid thábhachtach den phróiseas deartha a chur chun cinn agus is féidir leis an bpobal páirt a ghlacadh sa Bhealach is Dealraithe a Roghnófar tríd. Chun deis a thabhairt don phobal a bheith ar an eolas go hiomlán agus ceisteanna, ábhair inniú agus tráchtanna lena mbreithniú amach anseo a ardú, tionólfar imeacht comhairliúcháin phoiblí agus is iad seo a leanas na sonraí:

Dáta	Am	Ionad
Dé Máirt, 12 Samhain 2019	12.00pm - 8.00pm	Óstán Glenview, Gleann Dá Ghrua, Co. Chill Mhantáin, A63 DC95

Ag an imeacht comhairliúcháin phoiblí, beidh liníochtaí de na roghanna forbartha agus na srianta aithníde ar taispeáint. Déanfar an fhaisnéis ar fad a bheidh ar taispeáint ag an imeacht a fhoilsiú ina dhiaidh sin ar an suíomh gréasáin (www.m11n11.ie).

Is luachmhar d'Fhoireann Tionscadail an N11/M11 tuairim an phobail maidir leis an tionscadal seo agus cuireann siad fáilte roimh thráchtanna ón bpobal agus ó pháirtithe ar suim leo é. Beidh baill foirne ó Chomhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin, Oifig Bóithre Náisiúnta Chill Dara agus Arup ar fáil chun ceisteanna a fhreagairt ar an lá.

Chun tuilleadh eolais a fháil féach: www.m11n11.ie nó déan teagmháil linn faoi mar a leanas: Teileafón: 086 7901803 nó 0404 20181, Ríomhphost: n11m11@arup.com

N11/M11 JUNCTION 4 TO JUNCTION 14 IMPROVEMENT SCHEME – PUBLIC CONSULTATION NO. 2

Wicklow County Council in conjunction with Dún Laoghaire – Rathdown County Council are progressing the development of the N11/M11 Junction 4 to Junction 14 Improvement Scheme. The project is being managed by Kildare National Roads Office with Arup appointed as lead consultant to advance the project through the planning and design process.

The purpose of this public consultation is to inform the public of the transportation options which have been developed to date to address the problems identified, the constraints identified to date and the programme for advancement of the project. Public consultation forms an important part of advancing the design process and allows for the involvement of the public in developing the Emerging Preferred Option. In order to afford an opportunity for the public to be fully informed and to raise questions, concerns and comments for future consideration, a public consultation event will be held with details as follows:

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday 12th November 2019	12.00pm - 8.00pm	The Glenview Hotel, Glen of the Downs, Co. Wicklow, A63 DC95

At the public consultation event, drawings of the developed options and known constraints will be on display. All information displayed at the event will subsequently be published on the project website (www.m11n11.ie).

The N11/M11 Project Team values the opinion of the community on this project and welcome comment from the public and interested parties. Staff from Wicklow County Council, Kildare National Roads Office and Arup will be available to answer questions on the day.

For further information please see: www.m11n11.ie or contact us as follows: Phone: 086 7901803 or 0404 20181, Email: n11m11@arup.com





Pictured are the Wicklow Local Enterprise Office's Brexit Seminar in the Parkview Hotel, Newtown, were Tom McGrath, BDO Ireland, Vibeke Delahunt, Wicklow LEO, Moria Creedon, Artemis Consulting, John Madigan, Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland. Pic: Joe Keogh

Start-ups encouraged to apply for Food Works worth €50,000

Bord Bia, Enterprise Ireland and Teagasc, are encouraging food and drink entrepreneurs from Wicklow to apply for the 2020 Food Works programme as the deadline for applications approaches.

The supports offered by the Food Works programme are valued at over €50,000 and include in-depth consultancy and advice from the three agencies, access to consumer and market research, feasibility funding and bespoke mentoring with industry experts.

Luxury Biscuit company, Lismore Foods; Wicklow Wolf, craft beer company; Fiid, producers of convenient nutritious meals; Bean and Goose, Chocolatiers from Wexford and Waterford based, Black Twist, producers of a single origin coffee and whiskey drink have all successfully participated in the Food Works programme and benefited from the wealth of mentoring advice and industry expertise that's available.

As part of the programme, participants benefit from one-to-one mentoring with Ireland's best food and drink business minds.

Speaking about the 2020 recruitment campaign for Food Works, Nicola Nic Pháidín, Manager of Food High Potential Start Ups, Enterprise Ireland said, "Food Works is the only programme of its kind in Ireland, where three government agencies have come together to help develop innovative food and drink start-ups into commercially viable businesses with export potential. This year we are looking for scalable and export driven Irish food products that satisfy a genuine market need. As the diversity of participants for the 2019 programme suggest, this is a programme that is open to many and varied start-ups, so we encourage food entrepreneurs at all levels to apply".

Food Works are recruiting individuals and companies at the early stage of their development, who believe they have a cutting edge product which addresses a gap in the market. Food Works will be hosting a final Introductory Event on Tuesday 26th November in Bord Bia. Register to attend this event at foodworksireland.ie/how-to-apply/. The application closing date for Food Works 2020 is 10th December. For further information on Food Works visit www.foodworksireland.ie.

Citroen is Ireland's fastest growing mainstream car brand

Citroen have had a great year in Ireland and in Wicklow - with new car and van sales up substantially on last year.

Their range is fresh and new, with best in class comfort levels, very economical engines and that special French style that appeals to Wicklow buyers.

Citroen was the fastest growing mainstream pas-

By Martin McCarthy

senger car brand in Ireland for Q3 thanks to a registration performance of 340 units, which was up 29% on 2018 figures. The C3, their B-Segment hatch-

back, was the main winner with registrations up 18% on 2018 figures while the C3 Aircross, the compact B-segment SUV was up 16% on last year. During this successful quarter three period, commercial vehicle sales

accounted for 58% of the total brand registrations with the New Berlingo Van, the International van of the year 2019, accounting for 358 of these 467 registrations ensuring the model was up 21% on 2018 figures.

Funding Awarded to Wicklow villages

Over €250,000 in funding has been divided among a number of villages in Co. Wicklow under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme.

Dunlavin received €21,000 for the creation of a walking trail along the historical route within the village of Dunlavin and local area. Coolkenno received €24,000 for the installation of new lighting and handrails in the community field. Aughrim got €95,000 for the development and upgrade of age-friendly amenities. Redcross got €80,000 for the enhancement of the streetscape in the village. Delgany got €29,000 for the development of a Greenway Feasibility Study and Public Realm Urban Design Plan.

Welcoming the funding for the areas that secured it, former TD for Wicklow and Fine Gael General Election candidate Billy Timmins stated: "Congratulations to Towns that got funding under the scheme. I do believe however that there is far greater scope to draw down funding for such projects."

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Significant milestone for Blessington Greenway project with design and procurement team now in place

Minister Simon Harris TD last week attended the first meeting of the Blessington Greenway Extension Steering Group, which took place in County Buildings.

Following the meeting Simon Harris TD said: "I am delighted to report that the selection of the Design and Procurement Team for the Greenway Extension has been finalised. I attended the first meeting of the Greenway Steering group on Friday with representatives of the Blessington Town Team, Wicklow County Council, the ESB and the newly appointed design team.

"The Blessington Greenway extension will have a transformational impact on West Wicklow. We have already seen the great success of the Waterford Greenway in respect of local jobs and businesses. The Blessington Greenway has even greater potential and I am delighted to see an experienced contractor being appointed who has already undertaken greenway

developments"

"2020 will see the full detailed design of the entire 42km Greenway route undertaken. Construction work will commence in 2021."

"I would like to pay tribute to the work undertaken by Wicklow Town Team and the wider community to date in bringing the project to this point. I look forward to further engagement with the community in preparing for the posi-

tive impact such a major tourist attraction will have on the community and local business."

John Horan from Blessington Town Team outlined the Greenway's progress at last month's meeting of Wicklow County Council. He said "the dream of Blessington greenway all the way around the lakes is very close to becoming a reality. It's a multi-million euro project to do it around the lakes and the Council got behind it and have developed the idea. Through the National

Planning Strategy and the good work of a lot of people, the County Council got €5 million in funding from the Department.

"The actual building of the greenway should be well under way in early 2020. It won't take too long to build in my view, and I think that certainly in 12 months' time we should see dramatic progress towards the finalisation of the greenway. It just shows what can be done when community and local authorities work together."



PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene @ alphaplansdesign.com) Seeks planning permission for development consisting of 61 two storey dwellings in detached, semi-detached, and terraced format with connection to services and associated works including roads, footpaths, public lighting, open spaces, landscaping, boundaries and boundary treatments, attenuation system and entrance at Ballygannon, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow for J. and V. O'Shaughnessy. 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.

THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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

Minister Simon Harris was at County Buildings last Friday to meet the new appointed Consultants to Blessington Greenway. Pictured are Michael Quinlan (ESB), Carol Kinsella, Margaret Hartnett, Caroline Fox, Maura Halvey, John Horan (Blessington Town Team), Michael Nicholson, Minister Simon Harris, and Eoin O'Mahony (EECON Ireland).

Cumann na mBunscol Chill Mhantáin

3rd and 4th Class Girls Show Great Skills

Well done to all the 3rd and 4th Class girls who participated in a blitz on the 17th October in Bray Emmets. There were some great skills on show, despite the wet weather. "Thanks to the Young Whistlers who refereed; to Bray Emmets for the use of their facilities and to all involved in organising such a successful day."

It's That Time of Year Again - Tráth na gCeist

It is that time of year again as Cumann na mBunscol Chill Mhantáin prepares for the annual Tráth na gCeist. It will take place in Lynham's Hotel in Laragh on the 7th of November at 7.30pm. Each school is asked to bring some small GAA related prizes for the raffle on the night.

Indoor Hurling/Camogie 3rd and 4th Class Blitz

14th, 21st and 28th November in Shoreline, Greystones. 6th Class Young Whistlers can used. These are not mixed teams. Your school will be contacted regarding which date you will be attending. Schools will attend on 1 of these days. Please let Cumann na mBunscol Chill Mhantáin know if you cannot attend on one of these days.

RECRUITMENT



Energy for generations



General Operative and Relief Station Attendant

Vacancy No: GT EX19 27

Job Type: Permanent

Position Description

The successful applicant will support the efficient and safe operation of ESB's generation and water control assets on the Liffey Stations. The Liffey Stations include Pollaphuca, Golden Falls and Leixlip Power Stations and their associated infrastructure and catchment. The successful candidate will carry out all general maintenance duties on the Liffey Stations including but not limited to routine checks and operation of plant and equipment, undertaking & documenting maintenance works and noting dam monitor readings. The role will also provide relief duties for the Liffey station attendants when required. During these relief periods the successful candidate will be also be responsible for assisting with operation and monitoring of plant and equipment on the Liffey stations. This position will be based in Pollaphuca. From time to time, work at other ESB's locations such as Turlough Hill may also be assigned on a business needs basis.

The ideal candidate will have experience of industrial plant environments/ construction industry and will have a keen eye for detail. As the Liffey Stations are unmanned outside of normal work hours a key feature of this role is from time to time responding to callouts. As these callouts may be critical it will be a requirement of the role to be onsite within 60 minutes of a callout.

Key Responsibilities

The successful candidate will be required to carry out a range of duties not limited to the following :

- Work as part of a team
- Operation, monitoring and understanding of all main and auxiliary plant
- Proper understanding of plant indications and displays with periodic recording of plant data and events in log book
- Checking dam instrumentation readings
- Use of ESB IT systems
- Working knowledge of relevant Safety Procedures
- General duties relating to the operation and upkeep of the station
- Undertaking discrete projects as requested by Management
- Supporting station business goals (Availability, OHSAS/ISO accreditation etc.)
- Assist the station in other duties as required
- Presents a positive image of ESB to the public

Knowledge, Skills and Experience

Essential

- Applicants must be proficient in the use of computer systems
- Health, Safety & Environment (HSE) Awareness
- Full Clean B category driving licence

Desirable

- Experience in industrial plants and /or construction or building maintenance works is desirable

Location

The position is based on Turlough Hill and Liffey Generating Stations.

Reporting to

Civil Works Supervisor, Turlough Hill and Liffey Generating Stations.

To Apply go to www.esb.ie/careers Closing Date: 18th November 2019

Note: Please advise if you require any additional accommodations to assist you if you are called to attend at interview. ESB is an Equal Opportunity Employer

CLASSIFIED ADS & PLANNING / APPOINTMENTS

CALL 01 2869111 EMAIL: jennie@localtimes.ie

PLEASE NOTE DEADLINE FOR CLASSIFIED ADS AND APPOINTMENTS IS 12 NOON FRIDAY





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