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# THE COUNT OF LUGGALA

A reclusive Italian Count is said to be the new owner of the historic 5,000 acre Luggala estate near Roundwood

Reports about the identity of the new owner are based on documents filed with the Companies Registration Office earlier this year showing that American, Carolyn Dolgenos, wife of Count Luca Rinaldo Contardo Padulli di Vighignolo set up a new company called Luggala Estate Ltd.

Count Padulli de Vighignolo is from a noble Italian family that owns land and businesses in Lombardy. After obtaining a doctorate in economics in Milan, he moved to London to run an investment firm. He co-founded Camomile Associates hedge fund, which reportedly had assets of €2 billion at one time. The Count is said to live a relatively modest and secretive lifestyle and currently lives with his wife and son on a huge estate in

Norfolk. He has been involved with property, investments and insurance companies across Europe and America, many owned by offshore trusts.

The Count made a rare appearance in the headlines in 2017 when he was revealed to have sold an estimated \$100m worth of Old Masters drawings including Michaelangelo and Rubens to the Getty Museum.

Locally, concerned walkers who have been

fighting to retain what they say is a right of way on the estate, and were pushing for the State to buy Luggala, are hopeful that the new owner might help resolve the impasse.

Luggala Lodge dates from 1787 and most recently was the home of Guinness heir Garech de Bruin, who died in 2017. Following his death, the Guinness estate put the house on the market along with its land for a price tag of €28m. There were calls



Ava O'Brien, Kayleigh Laura Kane, and Emilly Allen at the Arklow Girl Guide 80th Anniversary Mass in Sts. Mary & Peter's Church, Arklow

  
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at the time for the State to purchase Luggala for its heritage and biodiversity value, and its tourism potential. However, no deal was done, with the Department of Culture and Heritage citing the hefty price tag.

Roger Garland, Chairperson of Keep Ireland Open, a voluntary body formed to campaign for the rights of recreational users to responsible access to the Irish countryside is hopeful that the new owner will continue with what he describes as the 'grace and favour attitude taken by de Bruin'.

"We maintain that there is a right of way on this property. It will have a serious impact on walkers and tourists if it doesn't continue. It's a disgrace that the State didn't buy it, when you consider what they

spend on greyhound racing, horse racing, etc.," he said. Mr Garland is also keen for the new owner to address the fencing that was erected along the eastern edge of the estate with what he claims was no planning permission.

The group has lodged complaints to Wicklow County Council and is asking their enforcement department to remove it. "We respect the owner's privacy and have no wish to go near the house. It's possible that an area around the house could be made private and the rest of the land handed over to the National Parks and Wildlife Service. We wish the owner well and are hopeful he will see our point of view. We would be delighted to meet with him when he's settled in and discuss the issues," he concluded.

**Cllr. STEVEN  
MATTHEWS**  
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Green TD  
Join the Green Wave!**

 Steven Matthews  
Green Party  
 @stevensgreen1  
Email: [steven.matthews@greenparty.ie](mailto:steven.matthews@greenparty.ie)





*Aoife Dunne, Sarah Evans, Rosa Flaherty and Fr Pat O'Rourke are pictured at Maureen's Unwanted Gift Coffee Morning in aid of Wicklow Cancer Support and St. Patrick's Church in the Pastoral Centre, Wicklow Town.*

## Conary Church annual sale

Conary Parish Church are holding a sale on Saturday 30th November from 2:30pm-4pm in Conary Church Hall. There will be an array of homemade cakes, jams, vegetables for sale. A raffle draw with a number of prizes will take place at the sale, with top prize being a food hamper. Tickets may be purchased on the day. There will also be teas and other stalls. All money raised will go towards Conary church funds.

## Flea & Craft market at Luisne

Luisne Centre for well-being in Kilcoole is hosting a flea & craft market on the weekend of 8th and 9th December from 11am to 6pm. Craft, art and food entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to sell their wares. As part of the Market days Luisne will be running Taster courses.

## Kiltegan NS Open Evening

Kiltegan National School will hold an Open Evening in the school on December 4th from 6pm-7:30pm. Tea/biscuits provided - fun for all - along with the opportunity to view the school and meet the school community.

## Aughrim Active Retirement

Aughrim and District Active Retirement have been invited to meet the transition year students in Rathdrum Community School on Thursday, 21st November for tea and a game of Bingo. All those going will meet at Lawless's at 11am for car pooling. "We will be back by 1.30pm. We continue to meet for a walk on Monday mornings at 10.30am, with coffee afterwards. All welcome to come along."

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## Blessington Day Care Variety Concert

A variety concert in aid of Blessington Day Care will take place on Sunday 1st December in Church of Our Lady, Blessington, at 8pm. Acts include the Roscommon Solstice Choir, Rachel Coyle, and Lorraine Willoughby. Tickets are €10 and available from the Parish office, Hennessy's, and Office Shop, or call 087 2934806 or 087 9195991. Bring a cushion!

## Carysfort Craft Fair

Carysfort National School, Arklow will host their annual Christmas Craft Fair on Saturday the 7th December from 10am to 4pm.

This event has been running for a number of years and this year will host 30 stalls. You can find a host of local stall holders taking part with everything from arts and crafts to seasonal giftware and toys. Santa will arrive at his grotto at 12:30pm. For more information, please read more on the Carysfort Christmas Craft Fair page on Facebook.

## Parkinson's Choir social dance

Parkinson's Choir Wicklow will hold a Social Dance fundraiser on Sunday 24th November in the Pastoral Centre, Wicklow Town from 3pm-6pm. Admission is €5 - payable at the door. All are welcome.

## Raynaud's support group

Fingers going white in the cold? Cold feet? You may be suffering from Raynaud's. This support group for patients meets every three months. The next informal meeting will be on Monday, November 25th at 7:30pm at the Wilton Hotel, Southern Cross Road, Bray. All welcome. For further information, please contact Michèle at 086 3424106 or Debbie at 01 2819844

## Soup and sandwiches

The next Soup and Sandwiches lunch in St. Patrick's Swann Hall, Greystones will be on Tuesday 19th November from 12:30pm until 2pm. This is a friendly, community event with lots of lovely home-cooked food so do stop by. A suggested donation of €5 is given to local charities.

The next Soup and Sandwich lunch in Killian House Family Centre will be on Wednesday 27th November from 12:15pm until 2pm. Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy good home-made food and a friendly chat. The suggested donation is €5 and all proceeds go to local charities.

## Join Network Wicklow for a talk on branding

Do you struggle to understand what branding actually means? Are you concerned that your brand is lacking in clarity? Network Ireland Wicklow are hosting a night dedicated to branding entitled Own Your Brand with Marc Thornton' on November 21st in the Local Enterprise Office, Rathnew.

Award-winning trainer and Managing Director of DTA Marketing, Marc Thornton will give a presentation covering all areas of branding.

Speaking about this evening, Network Ireland Wicklow President Nicola Donegan said "Please join us for a night of brand awareness which will benefit you and your business.

"Marc is an engaging speaker who will open your eyes to the brand opportunities available to you and how to utilise them effectively for your business. I look forward to seeing you then".

This is a paid event for non-members. You can

register via eventbrite.ie.

It has been an exciting time for Network Ireland Wicklow as two of the regional winners went on to win awards at the National Network Ireland Businesswoman of the Year awards held in the Celtic Ross Hotel, Co. Cork in September.

"Huge congratulations again to our winners, Joanne Costello of XMedia and highly commended Jean Evans of Highline Office Technology," said Network Wicklow president, Nicola Donegan.

"This is a fantastic achievement and totally well deserved."

## Arklow Cancer Support members' exhibition

The Arklow Visual Arts Gallery launches this Exhibition at 7:30pm on Monday 18th November, all are very welcome to attend. The exhibition will continue Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm until 29th November.

Arklow Cancer Support provides a safe place for a person diagnosed with cancer and their families, providing important information and new coping skills in a non-judgmental and caring environment.

"There will be refreshments and raffle on the opening night, 7:30 pm Monday 18th November and we are delighted to welcome Cllr Peir Leonard, a strong advocate for the arts, to officially open the exhibition. This show promises to have an array of style, colour and form to suit all tastes so do pop in for a look and follow our social channels for daily updates throughout the exhibition."

ceeds from the exhibition are going directly to Arklow Cancer Support.

## €660 raised for Temple Street

On Saturday 26th October the Old Burial Ground in Delgany was transformed to host over 150 parents and children for its first ever Halloween celebration.

€330 was raised on the day and this was very kindly matched by a local resident. A total of €660 was donated to Temple Street Children's hospital's 'Trick or Treat' campaign.

Dating from the 7th Century the Old Burial Ground is located in the center of the village and provides the only open community space in Delgany.

There were lots of Halloween treats for the children including face painting, glitter tattoos, crafts and sweet treats. Tea and Coffee was put on for the adults giving them a chance to chat to others in the community. Custodian of the Old Burial Ground, Lailli DeBuitlear, said that she was "delighted with the number of people who attended the event. Since it was revived and reopened to the public in 1999 there has never been so many people inside at one time. The interest people are showing in the historical site is wonderful. The event has helped raise awareness of our local heritage and for many people it is the first time they have come through these gates."



Blessington brothers Sean and Conor Price release their new EP 'What's On My Mind' this week with an official launch taking place at the Sugar Club this coming weekend. From catchy pop rock tune "On My Mind", piano ballad "Everybody Wants" to pop R&B tune "Runaway", this EP shows a side to Sean and Conor that we haven't seen before. It was produced by Cormac Butler who works with The Academic, The Coronas and True Tides. New single Run Away is released this Friday.

## WICKLOW Times

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# Corridor options identified to relieve N11 congestion

A number of feasible corridors have been identified with the aim of relieving congestion and improving traffic flow between Junction 4 and Junction 14 on the N11/M11. Details of improvement scheme options were on display at a Public Consultation event in the Glenview Hotel, last Tuesday, organised by Wicklow County Council.

Elected representatives however were less than enthusiastic following the consultation and are calling for the scheme to be fast-tracked.

Sections of the N11/M11 - from Junction 4 to Junction 14 - have collision rates twice the national average for similar roads while there are problems with congestion, road alignment and journey time reliability.

Examination of alternative options for the road improvement is underway and the Public Consultation is part of that process. This will eventually lead to the selection of a preferred option.

The feasible transportation options identified include a range of possible public transport, demand management and road upgrade components.

Seven feasible corridors have been identified within which the transportation options will be developed in further detail. A number of shorter "offline" corridors have also been developed along certain sections of the scheme in response to specific deficiencies or constraints along the route at particular locations.

After attending last week's consultation meeting, Cllr Steven Matthews, Green Party, said "The public consultation process is open for a number of weeks but there are such limited options available it's really difficult to see how any car-bound commuter can get excited about this. I cannot see anything in this proposal that would give me confidence that the commuting chaos faced by Wicklow residents will be addressed."

Cllr Matthews said that the conversation should instead be focused on "public transport, real investment in rail for higher speeds and frequency, better local bus service connections to rail, and safer walking and cycling routes through and to our towns. This folly of roads, roads, roads is doomed to failure."

Clrlr Matthews said "for many car users there is no frequent or convenient public transport option. There are no options because there has been no real investment in public transport (Rosslare line was re-signalled in 2006 and DART extended to Greystones in 1998) in recent years. There is nothing planned for us, nothing proposed for us, no ideas from our TDs and in fact Wicklow is barely mentioned in the NTA transport strategy."

"Most of the population in east Wicklow is along the coast line, which has a railway with a modern signalling system. It's a poor service in terms of frequency and speeds but it connects Co Wicklow to Dublin and Roslare and is a vitally important piece of transport infrastructure for our county. Why are we not demanding more to get it upgraded with passing loops (increases frequency on a single line) or track upgrades for higher speeds. Manned stations with facilities and security are also needed with good bus connections and cycling and walking connectivity to the towns and residential areas. Why are none of these options on the table for this N11 consultation? It's because there is no prospect of any of this investment in our railway under this government and their lack of understanding of

public transport."

Speaking from the consultation meeting on the upgrade, Cllr Jennifer Whitmore, Social Democrats, said "The proposed start date for this upgrade is 2027 at the very earliest. On top of this, the NRO, who are managing the project, have said that they have no clarity on how long the project will take, as they are uncertain at this stage what the works will entail, or when funding will be provided for it."

Cllr Whitmore added "It is also critical that public transport is central to any proposed upgrade. It has been demonstrated all over the world that new roads will just fill with new cars. It does not solve the problem. The only sustainable solution is to ensure that bus and car pooling lanes are provided, with park 'n' rides at junctions along the route. We cannot take a short-term view of this problem."

Speaking after the consultation meeting, John Brady TD said "Nearly 70,000 vehicles use the N11 daily. That's a massive increase from 30,000 in 1998. Many of those road users are forced to commute daily to Dublin for work. The volume of traffic has resulted in the N11 becoming a car park in the morning and evening. The users of the N11/M11 simply cannot wait until 2027 to see improvements. To even suggest this shows no knowledge of the nightmare that drivers experience getting to and from Dublin."

"If alternative public transport options were available we would see a major shift from cars and private vehicles to trains and buses but there is no option. This is especially frustrating for commuters who have no choice but to travel in and out of Dublin for work."

After attending the meeting, Stephen Donnelly TD said that "What really surprised me was hearing that ARUP, the engineering company behind the project, has no idea how long the work will take. If we assume that it takes a minimum of 5 years for major roadworks such as adding a third lane etc., then we can assume it will be at least 2032 before commuters start to see any improvement in the current traffic gridlock."

"When you think about asking people today to wait 15 years for anything, it sounds insane. The Government simply must come up with a much shorter-term solution. At the very least it needs to immediately start tackling bottlenecks at junctions like Kilmacanogue. It also needs to increase and improve routes for buses and trains, provide more park-and-ride stops and invest in local jobs so fewer people are forced to commute to work."

"Fifteen years ago, I led a major project to overhaul transport in London. It succeeded because it looked at the whole system, not just separate parts of it. In this country we need to join the dots between all modes of transport and make sure they're working in tandem with each other."

"Buses should link up with train timetables and so on. The NTA's failure to do that means it's failing to do its job and in turn failing the people of Wicklow", concluded Donnelly.

## Calls for emergency rent freeze

Stephen Donnelly TD has called for an emergency rent freeze after the latest hike in private rental prices in County Wicklow.

In Co. Wicklow, rents were on average 3.8% higher in the third quarter of 2019 than a year previously according to Daft.ie's Rental Report for Q3 of 2019. The average listed rent is now €1422, up 84% from its lowest point. Rents in Dublin's commuter counties rose by an average of 3.4% in the year to September 2019 and are now 36% above their previous high in early 2008.

Deputy Donnelly explained, "What these figures prove is that high prices are not just restricted to the capital. Rents in Dublin's commuter counties, including Wicklow, are now 36% above their previous high in 2008."

"We all know, it's much more expensive to rent than to buy, but tenants are struggling to put money away to save for a mortgage deposit. The government seems to believe it's developing a continental rental model, but its own surveys show most people (86%) want the sense of security they get from owning their own place. And who could blame them when they're being trapped in an ever-increasing rip-off rental market."

"Empowering ordinary workers to own their own home is a primary goal for Fianna Fáil. Achieving this means supporting people to get a mortgage and reducing the cost of homes themselves. The central bank should review the fact they do not take rental payments into account when assessing mortgages. The government must also ramp up the supply of affordable homes for purchase", concluded Deputy Donnelly.



Jimmy Belbontin, Geraldine Mooney and Maurice Corr at the Wicklow Lion's Club table quiz in The Mariner, Wicklow Town

## 'Immediate action needed at Glen of the Downs'

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has said that Transport Infrastructure Ireland must take immediate action to deal with the dangerous condition of the N11 within the Glen of the Downs. Last week alone there were two accidents along the road and in September there were five accidents recorded by the Gardaí.

Deputy Brady said "Many people in Wicklow will be well aware of the increasing number of accidents occurring on the N11, particularly in the Glen of the Downs."

"According to local Gardaí, there were five accidents on the N11 in the Glen of the Downs during the month of September, this week alone there have been two accidents. Bad drainage on the road is resulting in large volumes of water running across the road, the cars are then aquaplaning with they hit the water and the motorists are losing control of the vehicle and crashing."

"Over the last two years I have been raising this serious problem with Transport Infrastructure Ireland and unfortunately nothing has happened to address the issue. Obviously the primary concern is the safety of the motorists, there is also the issue of when an accident happens the entire N11 comes to a standstill. I have been told that the drainage issue would be looked at as part of the N11/M11 Improvement Scheme; however that is not expected to commence until 2027 at the earliest. Road safety cannot be put on the long finger. Immediate action must be taken by Transport Infrastructure Ireland to deal with this accident black spot."

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Pictured at the recent Mary Immaculate College conferring ceremonies in Limerick was mother and daughter Mary and Jacqueline Burke from Kiltegan. Both were among the 887 students who graduated from the Leadership for INClusion in the Early Years (LINC) Programme, designed to support the inclusion of children with additional needs in the early years, and offered by a consortium, led by MIC, and including Early Childhood Ireland and Maynooth University, the Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education. Pic: Liam Burke

## Wicklow finalists announced for the 2020 BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition

The Wicklow finalists of the 2020 BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition (BTYSTE) have been announced as the Exhibition gears up for the 57th year of the renowned educational event.

BT, the organiser of the event, delivered the good news to the over 1,100 students involved in the 550 finalist projects. In total, over 1,800 projects were submitted by students in schools all across the island of Ireland. The students will now begin preparing to exhibit their projects and meet the judges at the Exhibition in January 2020.

The following projects from local schools have qualified: 'Is Humanity Becoming More Eco-Friendly?' (Presentation College Bray); Manual Horse Loading System (Colaiste Chraobh Abhann); Electric Paint - how much graphite is needed to heat your home? (St Gerard's); Music to my ears: A statistical analysis of the effects of earphones on a road user's perception (Avondale Community College); food waste lightbulb (St. David's); Indoor Generation - Can we reverse it? A statistical survey on the benefits of outdoor activities on young people (St Mary's College); Reduced timetable for children with special needs - are we proud of this as a country? (St Mary's College); Save the planet one flush at a time (St Mary's College); Marvellous Microbes and Mental Health - change your food to change your mood? (St Mary's College); To investigate if vegetarianism is a healthier diet choice than an omnivorous diet (St. David's).

A significant number of the projects this year delve into pressing social issues such as mental health, transgender rights and the effects that social media has on young people. Topics such as these are prevalent in the Social and Behavioural Science

Category but are also increasingly prevalent in the other categories; Technology, Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences and Biological & Ecological Sciences.

Shay Walsh, Managing Director at BT Ireland said, "It is a trend in itself globally that it is our young people who are now leading the charge when it comes to taking action on

issues such as climate change and mental health; and I am personally encouraged to see this same passion and concern coming from our own young people as evidenced in their project ideas. At BT we know, having organised this Exhibition for the last 20 years, that our alumni are the change makers of tomorrow; and that the BTYSTE is a powerful platform for them to express their ideas, opinions and solutions."

The BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition will take place from the 8th - 11th January, 2020 at the RDS in Dublin. This national celebration of science and technology is one of the country's best attended events every year, and has something for people of all ages to enjoy.

For participants, the Exhibition offers one of the most coveted awards with a substantial prize fund

and the BTYSTE perpetual trophy, as well as over 200 prizes for individuals, groups, and teachers.

In addition, the overall winner will represent Ireland at the European Union Contest for Young Scientists in Salamanca, Spain, in September 2020.

In addition to the core Exhibition, the Primary Science Fair will also take place at the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition from the 9th - 11th January 2020. The Primary Science Fair has been an exciting part of the internationally renowned BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition for over 16 years, and continues to play a pivotal role in the primary academic calendar in Ireland.

The Fair is designed to instil an early love of science and discovery in primary school students across Ireland.

"The type of projects also high-

lighted what is important to young people. This year is no different with topical themes such as climate change, wellbeing and health.

"Events like this are so important. It gives students a chance to channel their talents into issues which they want to tackle and change. Congratulations to all the students, teachers and parents who have put so much time and effort into the projects."

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"The type of projects also high-

# 60 CHILDREN HOMELESS IN COUNTY WICKLOW

Sixty children presented as homeless to Wicklow County Council during the month of September, it was revealed at this month's Council meeting.

Cllr Grace McManus highlighted the figure during a discussion on the monthly Manager's Report. Cllr McManus said "I think that's up 11 since August. That's shocking to me, for me that's an absolute priority and emergency."

Senior Executive Officer, Jackie Carroll, explained that the number was not necessarily as stark as it appeared: "That's a number of families comprising 60 children and it's not necessarily the same 60 that may be included in the statistics in the previous month. That's a fluid figure, what you see is not necessarily a static figure, they may not be in homeless accommodation, it could be notices to quit or they could be waiting for HAP tenancy to come up. It is a gruelling statistic but nonetheless we have the lowest figures in the mid-east region for children in emergency homeless accommodation."

Fianna Fail Spokesperson on Housing, Pat Casey TD recently criticised the government following news that the number of homeless children in the State has reached the highest ever level.

The number of homeless people in the State according to latest official figures show 10,397 people are currently living in emergency accommodation.

"Some 3,873 children are now living without a home in Ireland, according to the Department of Housing homeless statistics for September. Unfortunately, these official figures do not capture the hidden homeless such as rough sleepers, women's shelters and those in squats or couch surfing," said Deputy Casey.

"This government continue to fail in one of the most basic needs for our people, a safe and secure home. Rebuilding Ireland is failing our children and change is now needed. This figure is the highest ever number of children in emergency accommodation to date and has passed a previous peak of 3,867 children in July 2018. The number of adults recorded as homeless also

increased slightly up to 6,524 in September."

Fianna Fail's Health Spokesperson Stephen Donnelly has warned against misinterpreting the latest homeless figures which show a slight drop in homeless numbers in Wicklow (In August there were 32 people officially registered as homeless in the county).

Deputy Donnelly said "While that may look like things are slowly moving in the right direction, it would be absolutely naive to think that the situation is any less critical. In Wicklow we still have a chronic shortage of affordable homes. It's no good telling people there are plenty of houses to buy if 99 percent of them are totally unaffordable."

"We also have homeless support services that are brutally unsupported by the Government. The fantastic 5 Loaves has recently moved into its new premises on Bray Main Street and no one should underestimate what it offers. Anyone can drop in for a cup of tea and a chat, or a hot meal, a shower and a change of clothes but it's going to need continued funding if it's to keep that going long-term."

"There's also the Carraig Eden facility in Greystones which offers an invaluable rehab service. But yet again it can't function without the proper Government funding. Sadly, I had to write to the Housing Minister last week to ensure that his department will indeed help with the costs that are steadily mounting."

Last Thursday saw the re-opening of the shelter in Bray as part of the Council's Cold Weather Initiative. The shelter is for those sleeping rough during inclement weather conditions.

Deputy Donnelly said "As usual, anyone who wants to use the service needs to contact either Wicklow County Council, Dublin Simon, the local Five Loaves homeless charity or the Gardaí. While these beds are greatly needed and will hopefully help those most at risk, we should remember that this is only a very short-term solution. Come springtime this emergency shelter will be gone again and the very vulnerable people who've been staying there will be back out on the streets at night. This Government must once and for all tackle the homeless crisis that it's created."

## BAP's Disability Network meet with councillors at 'Big Chat' event

Members of Bray Area Partnership's Disability Network met with councillors over a cuppa recently to talk about issues for people with disabilities and present their Key Asks for what they want councillors do to improve the lives of people with disabilities living in the Bray and Greystones areas.

The Big Chat was hosted at Lakers and took the form of lively presentations by network member groups and their service-users on their issues in the areas of Accessibility & Transport, Education & Training, Employment and Housing & Accommodation. They then presented their Key Asks in each of these areas.

Examples of Key Asks were: accessibility audits of Bray and Greystones towns; install 'Changing Places' facilities; more affordable social housing suitable for people with disabilities; a directory of businesses in North Wicklow willing to provide work experience for people with disabilities; grants for colleges to do sensory audits; a council-sponsored campaign to promote the benefits of hiring people with disabilities.

The Big Chat followed on from an innovative pre-election 'Speed Lobby' of local election candidates earlier in the year. The idea was to build on the relationships forged at the Speed Lobby and give newly-elected councillors a chance to find out more about



Members of Bray Area Partnership's Disability Network meeting with councillors at the Big Chat event

# St. JOSEPH'S ASSURED THAT IT WILL STAY OPEN

Last week Minister Simon Harris met with representatives of St Joseph's Hospital and again assured the hospital, patients and their families that St Joseph's Hospice will stay open.

Minister Harris said: "St Joseph's will stay open - the doors will not close. I met with representatives of St Josephs this week and assured them the hospital will remain open. I know this will be the case as this week the HSE and National Treatment Purchase Fund have been engaging and meeting with St Josephs to discuss their funding needs.

"I want to assure patients and their families that St Josephs is safe and that their concerns will be addressed."

A petition to save St Joseph's Dementia Care Home in Shankill was presented to the Government last Wednesday by Fianna Fail spokesperson on Health Stephen Donnelly TD. The petition on change.org, which gained over 10,000 signatures, was set up by Deputy Donnelly and was submitted on behalf of the staff, patients, friends and families of St Joseph's. Emma Balmaine CEO of St.

Joseph's, as well as staff from St. Joseph's and family members of day and residential patients were in attendance.

The petition follows a large public rally organised by Deputy Donnelly the previous Friday evening in the Martello in Bray, where Ms Belmaine, St. Joseph's staff and family members of patients aired their concerns.

Deputy Donnelly explained, "Less than a week after we launched the petition we had reached an incredible total of 10,279 names. That kind of support shows just how important St Joseph's is and just how huge its loss would be. Signatures came not only from friends and family of patients, but also staff, managers and ordinary members of the public who simply understand how cruel it would be to leave some of the most vulnerable people in society without the help and support they deserve.

"The petition was addressed to the Health Minister and we were very clear in what we want from him. He needs to do two things: Provide immediate interim funding for six months, to secure the services to the end of June 2020; Engage in intensive negotiations with St. Joseph's to ensure long term, sustainable funding is agreed.

"St Joseph's is wonderful facility and CAN-NOT be allowed to close - it would be a betrayal of some of the most vulnerable women and men in our community. Let's

"We officially handed the petition over at the gates of the Dáil at midday on Wednesday. It was wonderful to be joined by so many well-wishers as we presented it. It was particularly moving to have several of the residents alongside us, including the fabulous Patricia Dolan, a retired opera singer, who entertained everyone with her version of 'When Irish Eyes Are Smiling'.

St. Joseph's is a private not-for-profit nursing home and Ireland's largest dementia-specific nursing home. It is home to 60 people living with dementia and providing two respite beds and an additional 120 day care places per week.

It employs 100 staff. It is part of Saint John of God Hospital clg, which has been covering the €7m financial shortfall in Saint Joseph's from its own resources since 2012.

In 2019 it was nominated for three awards by the Irish Healthcare Centre Awards in 2019 and received the Nursing Home Ireland Excellence in Dementia Care Award for 2018.



Sarah Duggan, Lexi Byrne, and Kaite Enright at the Arklow Girl Guide 80th Anniversary Mass in Sts. Mary & Peter's Church, Arklow

## Additional funding for services for older people in Wicklow

Over €100,000 has been allocated by the HSE to local community and voluntary groups in Wicklow to continue to support old people, their families and carers.

Welcoming the allocation, Minister Simon Harris TD said, "Ireland's population is ageing and happily people are living longer. Supporting older people to remain in their own homes and be engaged in their local communities is a core aim of this Government's policy.

"This is the first time since 2007 that any additional funding has been provided by the HSE to community and voluntary providers for additional services. These services include day services, social services and meals on wheels across County Wicklow."

Local Organisations such as Wicklow Dementia Support, Making Connections and the Irish Heart Foundation are among the recipients of the additional HSE funding.

Minister Harris added, "these additional funds will also support the emerging demand for services that encourage fitness to ensure older people stay fit and active such as the valuable work carried out by the Dublin Mountain Rescue".

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Sisters Elaine Cassidy, Gillian Kavanagh, and Edel Mellett, pictured at the opening of Wicklow artist RM Kavanagh's (aka Rasher) latest exhibition 'Chrysalis' in the Dean Hotel in Dublin. Pic: Andres Poveda

## 'Urgent action needed' as sewage continues to flow into Avoca River

Arklow has been listed as a priority area in terms of waste water treatment needs, in a new report published by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) last week. The report also lists Avoca, Kilcoole and Kilpedder as areas where improvements are needed to resolve environmental priorities.

The 'Urban Waste Water Treatment in 2018' report states that raw sewage from Arklow was flowing into the environment throughout last year as a result of there being no treatment plant. The report found that Arklow, Cobh and Kilmore Quay were collectively responsible for half of the sewage flowing into the environment. According to the report, Arklow failed to meet the European Union's legally binding standards for the treatment of urban waste water in 2018. Both Arklow and Avoca were identified as areas that continue to release untreated raw sewage into the environment. Last month, Irish Water submitted an application to the Minister for Housing Planning and Local Government for a foreshore licence to progress the development of the Arklow Wastewater Treatment plant, which will end the current practice of the discharge of raw sewage directly into the Avoca River.

John Joyce, Infrastructure Programme Regional Lead with Irish Water, said "Since Irish Water took over the responsibility for water and wastewater services in January 2014, addressing the need to eliminate the discharge of raw sewage into the River Avoca has been a top priority. The proposed new WWTP will have huge benefits for the residents and businesses in Arklow and the tourists that visit the area as it will improve the water

quality in the River Avoca and enable future economic growth in the area. This project is critical in safeguarding the wastewater system in Arklow for the future."

Irish Water are progressing the procurement of a contractor and expect to sign a contract in Q2 2020 with works to commence shortly thereafter.

Responding to the EPA report last week, Irish Water said "Irish Water is on track to deliver a programme of unprecedented scale to stop the discharge of untreated or inadequately treated wastewater into our seas, lakes and rivers. Since 2014, Irish Water has stopped approximately 44% of untreated and inadequately treated wastewater that was being discharged to our rivers, lakes and the sea. "Irish Water upgraded or built wastewater treatment plants in 20 locations across the country to safeguard the environment, support economic development and provide capacity for new homes and future development.

Many more wastewater projects are currently in the design and planning stage to address the remaining non-compliant areas including Arklow and Ringsend."

Fionnán Ó Sé Spokesperson Stephen Donnelly has warned that urgent action needs to be taken to help stem the flow of sewage from Arklow.

He explained, "This is simply unacceptable. We know for a fact

that untreated water can pose a serious risk to people's health. At a time when we're all supposed to be doing our bit to help reverse the effects of climate change, it's extremely disappointing that the government is letting down the country by not keeping our water quality up to scratch.

The EPA report shows that shockingly 21 cities and towns now have waste water treatment plants that don't meet EU standards.

"Irish Water has acknowledged that discharging untreated wastewater in Arklow is totally unacceptable and has promised to fix this problem with the help of Wicklow County Council. But what we need now is action not words. We urgently need work to begin on the new Wastewater Treatment Plant in the area. We also need to see the installation of a pipe to safely discharge the treated wastewater to the Irish Sea and we need new sewer pipes along the North and South Quays to bring the untreated wastewater to the sewage plant.

"Planning permission has been granted but a builder still hasn't been chosen for the project. As it currently stands work isn't expected to start until Autumn 2020 and won't finish for another three years. That's far too slow. Every day we're waiting, more waste is being pumped into the beautiful Avoca River and our local environment is paying the price for the delay", concluded Donnelly.

# Council signs up to Pollinator Plan

Wicklow County Council has signed up to the All Ireland Pollinator Plan. The cross-sector plan which began in 2015 aims to create areas where pollinators can survive and thrive.

In a presentation to councillors at this month's meeting of Wicklow County Council, the Council's Heritage Officer Deirdre Burns explained that actions in the plan the council could undertake would include supporting action on the ground being undertaken by Tidy Town groups and residents groups; preserving areas that are sources for pollinators' food; altering the frequency of mowing to allow vegetation to grow; using native seed for pollinator-friendly planting in street trees and hanging baskets; reducing the use of pesticides and eliminating it in areas that don't need it;

raising public awareness through signage; working with local groups and hosting workshops; and tracking progress through a Geographic Information System (GIS).

"Most food and crops are pollinated by wild bees in Ireland. Over three quarters of pollination is carried out by bees and rest by other insects," Ms Burns explained. "Pollinators are declining, we lost a third since 1980, and then, one-third of wild bees are under threat of extinction at the moment because we're drastically reducing areas where they can nest and the food and landscape that supports them. They're



Cllr Jennifer Whitmore

being made homeless, through habitat loss and lack of food crops and landscapes - so hunger and pesticide use and climate change is impacting on them."

Chair of the Council's

Climate SPC, Cllr Jennifer Whitmore, proposed that the Council become a partner in the Plan. She said "It has taken a long time to get to this point for the council. Across the districts we are doing a lot of the work outlined in the proposal but we haven't formalised it by becoming part of this plan yet.

"It is important to get the message out that this is not just a council initiative, there are actions that every single person can take, whether as an individual garden owner or member of Tidy Towns or business owner. Everyone within our community can play a role in this."

## Arklow Wind Park developer is new sponsor of classic offshore race

Wicklow Sailing Club has confirmed that SSE Renewables will be the new title sponsor for the 704-mile Round Ireland Race that gets underway on Saturday 20th June 2020.

The highly-acclaimed race is part of the Royal Ocean Racing Club Season's Points Championship. The start and finishing lines for the newly-titled SSE Renewables Round Ireland Yacht Race are off the pier head at Wicklow Harbour.

The club and its team of volunteer organisers hope to increase entries from 55 boats to more than 60 for this race and grow the race further in future editions. The majority of competing crews entering the SSE Renewables Round Ireland are from around the world in addition to home-grown entries.

SSE Renewables is currently developing a major expansion of the Arklow Bank Wind Park offshore wind energy project close to the starting line of the race. The project represents an investment of up to €2 billion and when completed will be able to generate up to 800MW, powering over half a million Irish homes.

In excess of 80 full-time shore-based and marine jobs are expected to be created to service the facility. These jobs will be based out of a full-time operations base to be located in either Wicklow Port or Arklow Harbour. In addition to title sponsorship of the 2020 SSE Renewables Round Ireland Yacht Race, planning is underway for the popular Round Ireland Festival at Wicklow Harbour that accompanied the 2018 race.

"SSE Renewables is the leading developer and operator of renewable energy in Ireland, and the leading voice for the emerging offshore wind energy sector here. The wind-powered Round Ireland Yacht Race fits perfectly with our 'Oceans of Opportunity' vision for this new marine energy sector," said Barry Kilcline, Head of Offshore Development with SSE Renewables.

"We're particularly pleased to partner with Wicklow Sailing Club in support of this prestigious race and marine leisure activity, which is so popular along County Wicklow's coastline where we plan to develop the next phase of Arklow Bank Wind Park. As climate change becomes a reality, sailing demonstrates the power of nature to be of real benefit as we face this challenge."

The first race around Ireland was staged by Wicklow Sailing Club in 1980 and has attracted a range of boats from super-maxis to 30ft yachts.

"Having the support of SSE Renewables as our title sponsor allows Wicklow Sailing Club to develop further, attract more entries to the race and raise the profile of the race in Ireland and around the world," commented Kyran O'Grady, Commodore of Wicklow Sailing Club. "We are also grateful for the continued support of Wicklow County Council and, most of all our dedicated club-members who make this unique event a reality."

The SSE Renewables Round Ireland Yacht Race 2020 will start from Wicklow Sailing Club on Ireland's East Coast on Saturday 20th June 2020.



Kyran O'Grady, Commodore of Wicklow Sailing Club, with Barry Kilcline, Head of Offshore Development with SSE Renewables. Pic: David Branigan

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Pictured is Vera Doyle with daughter Tracey Linnane, both of Anagolan and formerly Newtownmountkennedy, at Vera's 80th birthday celebrations at the Parkview Hotel, Newtown.

## NTA commits to improving 133 bus route

John Brady TD has welcomed commitments he has received from the National Transport Authority to make improvements to the 133 Bus Éireann route. The NTA has also informed Deputy Brady that the 133 route will remain within the Direct Award Contract between the NTA and Bus Éireann until 2021 when the services will be competitively tendered.

Speaking after his engagement with the National Transport Authority and Bus Éireann Deputy Brady said "The 133 bus service is one of the most complained routes and serious changes are needed. Following my ongoing engagement with the NTA and Bus Éireann in relation to the improving the 133 bus route, I have secured some important assurances from them.

"There were concerns that the 133 would be privatised, however it will remain within the Direct Award Contract between

the NTA and Bus Éireann until 2021 at which stage the service will be competitively tendered.

"The NTA have assured me that they will provide a regular and more frequent Arklow - Wicklow - Bray service during 2020 once additional driver resources become available following the transfer of certain bus routes from Bus Éireann to Go-Ahead Ireland during December and January.

"I have also secured a commitment that the NTA in conjunction with Bus Éireann will examine an option to serve Bray from Wicklow as a separate stand-alone arrangement. This Wicklow to Bray stand-alone service would operate via Bray Main Street. They have commenced the process of examining this proposal which I believe would be a very beneficial route for bus users. We need to see big improvements to our public transport system and give viable options to people from areas like Arklow and Wicklow Town to access good reliable alternatives to using their cars.



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# 'Rondo closure must be avoided at all costs'

**Up to 120 jobs could be lost in Arklow in January with the potential closure of the Rondo Food manufacturing facility on the South Quay. Elected representatives are calling on the Government to pull out all the stops to keep the plant from closing.**

A workers committee meeting was held last Tuesday following an announcement from management the previous Friday that they were considering moving operations to its headquarters in Krefeld, Germany. Further meetings are expected to take place over the coming weeks to see if closure of the facility can be avoided.

In 2011 the German company acquired the private label pet snack company Gaines Europe, which had been operating in Arklow since 1995. In 2013 it then moved operations to the facility on the South Quay, investing €6 million. However in a statement the company announced that 'negative financial results' since the 2011 acquisition meant that the Arklow plant might have to be closed. Management said that despite investments in modernisation and new technologies, and the employment of specialists, that the necessary turnover to achieve viable financial results has not been achieved.

Fianna Fáil TD Pat Casey said the potential closure of Rondo Food 'must be avoided at all costs'. "It is my understanding that Rondo Foods has been feeling the effect of Brexit and the volatile market. They have reported negative financial results which are not sustainable. If Rondo Food closes, the impact on the region will be devastating. This many job losses in one town is huge and my thoughts are with the employees and their families who are rightly wondering what happens next. The Government must do all they can to assist the company to keep its doors open and people employed. I would ask that Minister Humphreys speak with management at the earliest possible opportunity and discuss the next steps for the company and what supports are in place from her Department to help them to mitigate against the impact of Brexit."

"In just three weeks we have seen 500 job losses announced for Co. Clare, 320 in Ringaskiddy Co. Cork, over 80 in two Power Plants in the midlands and now this. The Government urgently need

to outline what they are going to do to bring jobs to the rest of the country. Having spent many months working on bringing a data centre to Arklow I know what the town has to offer. The infrastructure network is excellent, and we have a highly educated workforce.

"I will be working closely with local Councillors Tommy Annesley, Pat Fitzgerald and Pat Kennedy to ensure that there are alternatives in place for employees and that they will be able to access any necessary Government supports. It is important now, that management engage with staff to outline a clear picture of what the future holds," concluded Deputy Casey.

John Brady TD said that the closure of the facility "would not only be devastating for the local economy, but most importantly for these workers and their families. Every effort must be made to save these jobs. I have been in contact with Enterprise Ireland and Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation Heather Humphrey's to see that they do everything in their power to protect these jobs."

"Unfortunately Arklow has lost too many good businesses over the last few years and we can't allow the same happen with Rondo Foods. Government Departments need to stand ready, prepared to engage with these workers and support them. That includes the Department of Social Protection and the Department of Enterprise. A further meeting is planned between company management and the workers next week. I will continue my engagement with all stakeholders over the coming days in the hope that the jobs can be saved."

Minister Simon Harris said "The Government will make every State support available to these employees. In particular, staff of the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC), will be made available to meet the employees concerned, either individually or collectively, to discuss their employment rights. Enterprise Ireland is actively engaging with the company in relation to their future plans."

"The Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection is aware of the situation and the government will do its utmost to help these workers transition and find new employment opportunities. Notwithstanding the strong growth in employment locally this is a troubling time for Rondo workers and their families."

## Baltinglass racer selected as finalist for Young Racing Driver of the Year Award

**Max Hart (18), from Baltinglass has been named alongside William Kellett (19), from Kells, Co Meath, and James Roe (21), from Bodenstown, Co Kildare, in the race for the prestigious Sexton Trophy and a first prize of €50,000, at the Motorsport Ireland Young Racing Driver of the Year Awards.**

The three drivers were drawn from six candidates who were nominated on the back of their performances during the course of this year. They were selected from a range of track racing disciplines and underwent a rigorous selection process in front of a judging panel comprising representatives of the racing community and the media.

Leaving Cert student Max Hart finished second in the British Monoposto 1000 Championship this year. Competing with Leastone Racing, he claimed two race wins and numerous podium finishes in his first full season racing outside of Ireland.

"I want to congratulate not only the three finalists but also all those nominated throughout the year," said John Naylor, President of Motorsport Ireland. "All those selected to be interviewed in the process have shown great driving talent, which bodes well for the

future of Irish racing."

The Motorsport Ireland Young Racing Driver of the Year award and the historic Sexton Trophy are presented to the individual who has demonstrated the most potential to represent Ireland at home and internationally both on the track as well as in the public eye. The winner will receive a 50,000 support package to help develop their motor racing career.

In addition, all three finalists will be included in the Team Ireland development programme run by Motorsport Ireland to nurture and support young drivers.

The overall winner of the 2019 award will be announced at the MIS Motorsport Irish Motorsport Awards ceremony, which takes place on Tuesday, 10th December at the City West Hotel, Dublin.



Baltinglass racer Max Hart in action in Norwich

# 24 hours of reality climate presentation in Nuns Cross National School

**On November 20th-21st, Raoul Empey will join former US Vice President Al Gore and The Climate Reality Project for 24 Hours of Reality: Truth in Action, a global conversation about the climate crisis and its solutions in communities around the world.**

For one full day, Vice President Gore and members of Climate Reality's network of more than 20,000 Climate Reality Leaders from 154 countries will participate by sharing the presentation first made famous by the Academy Award-winning documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*, in their own communities

across the globe. Over 1,000 Climate Reality Leaders will present across the globe in community centers, places of worship, homes, schools, businesses, and even on social media, Climate Reality Leaders will put truth into action and bring the hopeful message about today's climate solutions directly to

their friends, family, and neighbors. As a trained Climate Reality Leader, Raoul Empey, will present on 21 November at 9:15am at Nuns Cross National School in Ashford, to the older students, with the hope of inspiring local action. The children will have the opportunity to participate in planting some trees in a local

Native Woodlands Scheme in Ashford, as well as spur meaningful action under the school's green flag.

Raoul's presentation will focus on the local impacts and solutions of the climate crisis in Ireland, especially as they relate to our children.

"I have two environmentally minded boys at Nuns Cross, Thibaud aged 10 and Marius aged 8. Naturally I am concerned for their future and that of their friends in a heated world. The scientists and politicians have been speaking about climate change since the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 - that's nearly 30 years - to little effect. Compare what children like Greta Thunberg have done in one year under the school climate strike movement Fridays for Future. Climate change is happening now, and it is their future we are talking about."

Raoul runs a climate change and energy consultancy called Sustineo out of the Wicklow Enterprise Centre, and is dedicated to focusing on climate change solutions. As part of 24 Hours of Reality: Truth in Action, he will also speak to public sector representatives in Cork City on

20th November at an event hosted by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland.

Alongside the trained volunteers, former Vice President Al Gore will present at Vanderbilt University, where he received his graduate degree, and spent time as a guest lecturer.

"Millions of people around the world are fed up and demanding urgent action on the climate crisis," said Al Gore. "The tide is turning, thanks to dedicated activists speaking truth to power every day - including the tireless work of more than 20,000 highly trained and dedicated Climate Reality Leaders. I'm thrilled that this year's 24 Hours will lift up the voices of the inspiring people carrying the climate movement on their shoulders, and I'm honored to join them for this exciting day of grassroots action and education."

Those who attend the presentations will have the option to have a tree planted on their behalf through a collaboration between The Climate Reality Project and One Tree Planted.

For more information about this year's 24 Hours of Reality: Truth in Action, visit [24hours-of-reality.org](http://24hours-of-reality.org).



Former US Vice President Al Gore with Raoul Empey



Victoria Egan and Vicky Duffy at the Wicklow Lion's Club table quiz in The Mariner, Wicklow Town

## Wicklow delegates attend Youth Assembly on Climate

Five young delegates from Co. Wicklow last week attended the RTÉ Youth Assembly on Climate, in association with the Houses of the Oireachtas, on Friday 15th November. The assembly was convened in Dail Eireann.

The Wicklow delegates at the assembly were Grainne O'Sullivan (age 15), Molly Mercier Redmond (age 15), Molly Gordon Boles (age 17), Lucy Sky Dunne (age 14), and Nina Boydell (age 10).

This momentous day saw 157 young Irish people (the same as the number of TDs in The Dail) from 10 to 17 years of age focus and debate on the following themes; environment, economics, food and farming, power and education. The event was chaired by Ceann Comhairle Seán Ó Fearghail.

The delegates gathering from across the Republic of Ireland convened in Leinster House to establish what they would like to see as the next urgent steps for Ireland and presented them to the nation live from the Dáil Chamber in a News2day special live broadcast on RTÉ2 and on Oireachtas TV.

Topics of discussion included the environment, economics, education and farming.

## Schools celebrate Clean Air Week

Schools from Wicklow are celebrating Clean Air Week this week by undertaking activities and events to stress the importance of clean air and reduced air pollution at their school gates.

Clean Air Week is the latest campaign from the Green Schools Travel programme, which promotes active and sustainable travel on the journey to school. Clean Air Week runs from Monday, November 18th to Friday, November 22nd with 13 schools from Wicklow taking part.

Following a study carried out in Spring 2019 in partnership with schools and the international GLOBE programme students discovered that nitrogen dioxide NO<sub>2</sub> levels were higher for schools situated in major towns and cities when compared to schools located in rural areas. This can be attributed to traffic at the school gates as well as idling engines from cars and buses.

Launching the week, Green-Schools Travel Manager Jane Hackett said "Journeys to school by car are contributing to poor air quality in our towns and cities. It is shocking to hear that 1 in 5 Irish children experience asthma at some stage in their lives, and this is directly linked to poor air quality. We are calling on schools around Ireland to investigate the quality of air outside their schools and to help improve their student's health by promoting sustainable journeys to school".

A No Idling Toolkit and an Air Quality resource has been developed to help schools launch a clean air-focused campaign. Green-Schools are asking students to make a pledge to #BeatAirPollution in order to create a healthy environment around the school gate and to improve well-being by travelling to school actively.

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Pictured at the Toastie Festival at the Harbour Bar in Bray were Holly Greenslade and Catherine Kinnarney. Pic: Joe Keogh

# Hundreds of children on waiting lists

Figures released to the Social Democrats Party Roisin Shortall TD by the HSE show that 90 children under the age of 18 are waiting for more than a year appointments in the West Wicklow/Kildare HSE area. The area is also suffering from a lack of social workers leading to a backlog of child protection cases. Meanwhile, new figures obtained by Fianna Fail show 130 children with disabilities in North & East Wicklow are now overdue for an assessment of need.

Speaking about the psychology appointments waiting list, Social Democrats councillor Jennifer Whitmore said "It is shocking to see the high numbers of children that are being left sitting for over a year on a waiting list for a psychology appointment in the West Wicklow/Kildare area. This region has one of the highest numbers on waiting lists for that age group in the country when you exclude city regions."

"When you compare those times with waiting times across the remainder of County Wicklow, where no children under the age of 18 are waiting longer than a year, it shows that access to very basic healthcare is a postcode lottery. The fact that 90 children in West Wicklow and Kildare are waiting over a year for an appointment isn't acceptable for our public health service and it shouldn't be tolerated."

"These figures show

yet again the inability of the HSE to deploy resources where they are most needed. Why do some children, and their families, have to go without support because of where they live?

"Aside from the misery that children on these lists face, the longer they have to wait for treatment, the more complex and costly interventions will be when they are reached. Investing now makes sense from both a compassionate and practical perspective."

Fianna Fail Health Spokesperson Stephen Donnelly has labelled as 'cruel' the long wait for a social worker for people in West Wicklow.

Deputy Donnelly explained, "It's nothing less than shameful that right now there are over 550 children in State care in this country waiting for a social worker to be assigned to them."

"We need to remember that social workers are there to support some of the most vulnerable in our society. Among

them are those who've suffered abuse and disgracefully they too are being left languishing on long waiting lists.

"Back in April Fianna Fail highlighted how a lack of social workers was leading to a backlog of child protection cases. We had also issued a warning about the situation a full year beforehand. That's why it's so upsetting to see that nothing has changed yet."

"I'd like to appeal to the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs personally. I'd ask Katherine Zappone to please take the necessary steps to hire more social workers as soon as humanly possible. Without them we can't even begin to help people who desperately need it", concluded Donnelly.

Regarding the 130 children with disabilities in North & East Wicklow are overdue for an assessment of need, Deputy Donnelly explained: "National figures are going up, despite numerous

Government promises. The latest stats show that the number of overdue Assessments of Need rose nationwide from 3,568 to 3,768 at the end of June this year. When we breakdown those figures we can see that for the size of our population there are proportionally FAR more children waiting in Wicklow than in Dublin (130 waiting in Wicklow versus 7 children waiting in Dublin

South East & 20 in Dublin South). Children in West Wicklow are sadly also being let down ( 219 children waiting in Kildare / West Wicklow versus just 38 in Dublin South City)."Caring for vulnerable children is one of the most basic and important roles of the State. These figures are a betrayal of Wicklow

children and their families. And this is just for assessment of need - the stark reality is that even with as assessment of need, children with disabilities might wait years for the supports they need.."

## Sinn Féin unanimously select Brady as General Election candidate

Sinn Féin TD John Brady was unanimously selected by members of the party to contest the upcoming General Elections on behalf of the party. Brady was chosen by the members at a selection convention that was held on Thursday in the Glenview Hotel.

Speaking after the convention Deputy Brady said "I'm absolutely honoured and humbled to have been unanimously selected by my colleagues in Wicklow to contest the upcoming General Election. I have worked hard to represent Wicklow and its people since being first elected to the Dáil in 2016 and believe that I have given Wicklow a strong voice in the Dáil."

"If re-elected I will continue to stand with communities, families and workers to help build an even better Wicklow and a fairer society for all."

"Unfortunately Wicklow is completely forgotten by this Government. The County is grinding to a complete halt. We are losing jobs on a daily basis, critical infrastructural to allow the County grow such as

the N11 and N81 upgrades have been put on the long finger and public transport remains under invested. It's time to get Wicklow moving."

"I have worked hard to address the housing and homeless crisis in Wicklow and will continue to work to ensure that we get affordable homes and that a rent freeze is introduced to tackle the spiralling rents."

Deputy Brady concluded "I want to thank my wife Gayle and my family for the continued support and also all the Wicklow Sinn Féin members and supporters for their work and commitment. Finally I want to thank the people of Wicklow for giving me the opportunity to represent them in the 32nd Dáil and I look forward to talking to people over the next few months."



**Christmas Island**  
the Santa Experience

Christmas Island at Hidden Valley Resort, Rathdrum, Co Wicklow

Opens November 23rd to December 23rd

Adults: €16.50 Children: €22.50 Infants: €10.00

Book Online at [www.christmasisland.ie](http://www.christmasisland.ie)



John Brady TD at the Sinn Féin Selection Convention with family and supporters.



# Gift Voucher Guide

## 'A voucher can make a wonderful gift'

The Christmas season will soon be in full flow in Wicklow with the switching on of Christmas Lights taking place across the county this coming weekend. In reality, though, the Christmas shopping season is already in full swing with many people looking to get the bulk of their shopping out of the way before the true madness begins.

The gift of a voucher, if carefully chosen, always goes down well. A voucher can be as personal and thoughtful as any other gift, if it's for a store where the recipient often shops or a place where they love to eat or stay. In this way a way a voucher can be an experience to look forward to - a round of golf or a fine dining experience, for example, as well as a material gift.

Co. Wicklow is blessed with an array of high-end boutiques, golf courses, hotels, cafes, restaurants, and salons. See the ads below for some ideas - a gift voucher for any of these places is sure to make a wonderful gift.

It's also worth noting that purchasing a voucher is a stress-free shopping experience for the buyer, freeing the buyer of the need to rumage through shelves in search of the perfect gift - instead you can simply go straight to the counter or even make the purchase online for the ultimate convenience.

So if you're racking your brain trying to think of the perfect gift, don't forget that a voucher might just be the perfect choice, whether it's a voucher for a round of golf or golf lessons, a voucher for a hair salon or clothes boutique, a voucher for a café, hotel or restaurant, or something else. Wicklow has no shortage of places where a voucher could come in hand and would, as evidenced by the ads below. So get your Christmas shopping underway now and select the perfect voucher for your friend or loved one.



**McMullans Arklow**  
*Celebrating 90 years of fashion!*

**CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHT**  
Thursday 21st Dec. 3pm to 8.30pm

Discounts of 10%, 20% and 30% off	Special HALF PRICE bargains	Wine and FREE raffle on Party night	Discounts apply all weekend!
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[www.mcmullanskarklow.com](http://www.mcmullanskarklow.com) Tel: 0402 32356

**Wishing all our customers a Very Happy Christmas**

**Amanda's Hair Salon**  
HAIR & MAKE-UP packages by Danielle  
CUSTOMISED GIFT SETS TO ORDER!

**9 Lower Mall, Wicklow Town** REVOLN PROFESSIONAL Tel: 0404 64562

**DRUIDS GLEN**  
HOTEL & GOLF RESORT

**OUR GIFT TO YOU**

Christmas is just around the corner and we have the perfect gift for your loved ones this festive season, we have even included a gift for you!

**Purchase a gift voucher for €100 or more** in a single transaction by November 30<sup>th</sup> 2019 and you will receive a complimentary **€10 e-voucher\***

\* Terms and conditions apply.

Visit [www.druidsglenresort.com](http://www.druidsglenresort.com) to purchase your vouchers today.

**the GOOD life**  
Cafe • Barbershop Lifestyle Store

Your local stockist of Irish Lifestyle products

**NOW OPEN**

**Gift Vouchers available**

**Unit 2, South Quay House, Wicklow Town. Tel: 0404 32150**

Vouchers for the totally unique **Brook Lodge & Macreddin Village** make the perfect present

**BrookLodge & Macreddin Village, Co. Wicklow**  
T: 0402 36444 | W: [www.brooklodge.com](http://www.brooklodge.com) | E: [info@brooklodge.com](mailto:info@brooklodge.com)

**GIVE THE GIFT OF GOLF THIS CHRISTMAS**

**WOODENBRIDGE GOLF CLUB**

**Green Fee Gift Voucher Special**

TwoBall Offer **€70** valid 7 days (normally €120)  
Fourball Offer **€130** valid 7 days (normally €240)  
Bar & Restaurant Gift Vouchers Available

3 Golf lessons using Trackman technology with PGA Professional Craig Lewis **€100** (limited number available)  
Golf Shop Gift Vouchers Available

[www.woodenbridge.ie](http://www.woodenbridge.ie) T: 0402-35202 E: [reception@woodenbridge.ie](mailto:reception@woodenbridge.ie)

**VOGUISH** *Boutique*

Join us for our Ladies Evening on the 23rd November, starting at 7pm

Christmas Gift Vouchers Now Available

*Wishing all of our customers a Happy Christmas*

**11 Main Street, Arklow, Co. Wicklow. Tel: 085 2887007 / 0402 98840**



**Lucy, John and Eve Sweeney at the Rosary at the Grotto 2019 event to celebrate young people's journey of life, which was held at the Grotto, Roadstone, Arklow**

## Bray ready for big switch-on

The official ceremony to 'Switch On' Bray's Christmas Lights Display will take place on Saturday 23rd November from 4pm - 5pm.

The ceremony will take place at the Plaza in the Civic Centre on the Main Street. MC for the event will be Bray's own Adam Burke and the switch on will be performed by a very special visitor all the way from the North Pole, along with The Bray Chamber President Ruth Donnelly and Bray Cathaoirleach Steven Matthews.

The town will be illuminated with the Christmas Lights and there will be lots of entertainment for all the family.

One lucky family will

have the prestigious role of pushing the button to officially turn on the town's Christmas lights. To enter this competition please see [bray.ie](#). The event will be hosted by this year's Bray Chamber of Commerce Endeavour Civic award winner Adam Burke, who is also well known for his energetic MC skills for "Bingo Loco" and Hardy Har Comedy.

The Christmas lights switch-on is expected to be a busy one with hundreds of people flocking to the civic plaza to enjoy the event. If you're plan-

ning on being there too, why not come to Bray a little earlier, grab something to eat, enjoy a spot of Christmas shopping and then pick your spot in the plaza ready for the festivities to start. Cllr Steven Matthews, Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District said,

"Bray's Christmas lights switch-on is the perfect reason to gather your family, wrap up warm and snuggle together in the civic plaza as we officially start Christmas and remember for all your shopping needs, places to eat, drink and be merry

you can't afford to miss Christmas in Bray."

Bray Chamber, [Bray.ie](#) and Wicklow County Council are once again encouraging everyone to shop locally and support the wide range of businesses in Bray town this festive season.

You can pick up a gift or simply enjoy some festive cheer at one of the many pubs, clubs and restaurants throughout the town and with free car parking at weekends throughout December, it makes Bray the perfect place to soak in the Christmas spirit.

# The magic of Christmas will descend on Arklow

Arklow will be getting into the festive spirit on Saturday, November 23rd, as the town's Christmas lights are switched on and the annual Christmas Festival gets underway. A large crowd is expected for the switching on ceremony at the Main Street car park between 4pm and 6pm.

Local groups will perform for the crowd while Santa will be led by the Arklow Pipe Band. Santa will travel from Bridgewater Shopping Centre over to the Main Street car park.

The winner of the Children's Christmas Art Competition will be chosen ahead of the event and will have the honour of switching on the Christmas Tree Lights.

Phil Cawley returns as Master of Ceremonies while people should look out for a new surprise in the Main Street car park this year. The festival finale will be a spectacular fireworks display.

The aim of the Christmas Festival, the

fifth to be held, is to increase footfall in the town, create a Christmas atmosphere, showcase the musical and arts talent available and to give the retailers an additional boost during the pre-Christmas period.

On Saturday, December 7th, a Park Market will take place from 12-6pm. There will also be a platform for budding musicians and artists to showcase their talents in a Busking competition on the day.

For 2019 Arklow Christmas Festival introduces a Santa Dash in association with Inbhearr Mor AC at the Arklow Duck Pond on Saturday, 21st December, at 9.30am. People are

encouraged to dress in festive gear to add to the Christmas spirit and to soak in the atmosphere as they walk, run or jog for one mile with family and friends around the Duck Pond.

The Best Dressed Festive Pet competition will run through the Festival Facebook page this year. Send in photos of your festive felines and pooches to the Festival Facebook page to be in with a chance to win.

All competition winners will be announced on Tuesday evening, December 17th, in Arklow Library which will also host a series of events over the festive season. With all this and more there are plenty of reasons to feel the Christmas magic in Arklow this year.

Full details of events taking place can be found on the Arklow Christmas Festival Facebook page.

The Arklow Christmas Festival Committee said that they would like to thank all businesses and individuals who have supported this event in any way.

A programme of events which will contain a Golden Ticket entry form is currently being delivered to each household in the town.

The Best Christmas Business Window Display Competition will once again feature

winners to the RNLI.

On November 20th in the Forge in Wicklow Lions will give their support once again to Wicklow ICA and St. Pat's Juveniles.

Then the last quiz before Christmas will be held on November 27th in Chester Beaty's for Ashford Community Group and Nun's Cross NS.

Also on the night there was a big surprise for Lions President Sean Olohan when Jill Clancy Harrold Chairperson of Wicklow RNLI Fundraising presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation Award for his Annie Blaker inspired Song and USB Key which raised in excess of two thousand euros to mark the departure of our beloved lifeboat Annie from Wicklow.

## Lions Quiz season up and running

**Phil Healy's Pub in Wicklow was full to the rafters for the very first Lions Quiz Night of the current season. Luckily thanks to the committee and the hard-working staff in Phil's everybody managed to get a seat at one of 26 tables on the night.**

Enthusiastic quiz followers came from far and wide to support two very worthy local charities the local branch of the RNLI and St. Patrick's NS also in Wicklow.

There was a tie break for the two top teams both with a score of 89 points between John Finlay's and Shay Jones's team. John took the honours after the tiebreak question and very kindly donated his team's



**John Finlay's team who came out on top at the Wicklow Lions quiz in Phil Healy's in Wicklow.**

## Greystones Cancer Support's Super Draw prizewinners

Greystones Cancer Support's 25th anniversary Gala Charity Night and Super Draw was held on Saturday 9th November in the Whale Theatre.

### The Winners

#### €1,000 SuperValu Shopping Spree

This wonderful prize was won by Christina McIlveen Clarke from Greystones. Her winning ticket was drawn by Paddy Houlihan, Manager of SuperValu Greystones.

#### Dash Cam

This was won by Joanna Fortune from Kilcoole, who bought the winning ticket from her mother, Ann! Keeping it in the family, they will be safe on the road. Joanna's winning ticket was drawn by Eileen Horan.

#### Case of Moët et Chandon Champagne

This prize was won by Anna Doyle. She pur-

#### Fourball from Delgany Golf Club

Lots of fresh air for Avril Cannon, who purchased her winning ticket at McCauley's Pharmacy Greystones. Susan Chestnut from Greystones drew Avril's ticket.

#### Home Heating Oil from Glen Fuels

Valerie Flynn from Kilcoole purchased her winning ticket from Ann Fortune. Anne Bateman from Greystones drew the winning ticket.

#### Afternoon Tea for Two from Powerscourt Hotel

Gaye Cullen from Kilcoole will have a wonderful afternoon at the Powerscourt Hotel. She purchased her winning ticket at Centra Kilcoole. Carole Kinsella drew Gerome's lunch ticket.

# Wicklow Town Christmas Market begins this weekend

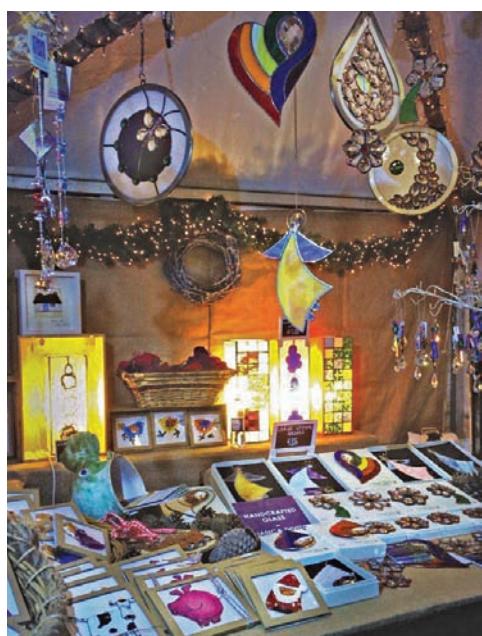
This is where Christmas Begins: Hop on Santa's Sleigh in the weekends leading up to this Magical Season

Wicklow Christmas Market is set in the magical and historical Abbey grounds in Wicklow Town, taking place from 12-6pm on Nov 23rd, 24th, 30th, Dec 1st, 7th, 8th, 14th and 15th.

Between the selection of local artisan foods, decorations, gifts, workshops and visiting Santa himself at the new Santa Express experience where Oribel the mischievous and fun elf will transport you on a magical journey aboard the Santa express train to Santa's Wonderland. There will be an abundance of fun and sparkly activities to



*There will be an 'Alpaca Experience' at this year's Christmas Market in Wicklow Town.*



*This year's Christmas Market in Wicklow Town is sure to get you in the festive mood*

get you and your family in the Christmas mood.

To add a little extra touch of excitement and Christmas cheer, a number of music and entertainment bookings have been added to dazzle your senses, along with a magical family funfair. There will also be an Alpaca experience, where adults and children will get a chance to mingle with all things woolly and wonderful.

Sound like fun? Whether you're local or

coming from Dublin City Centre or even further afield, this promises to be an event worth going to, accessible by both car and public transport. Bus Eireann's 133 will drop you right outside the grounds, the train dropping you at Wicklow Town station 5 minutes away, and ample parking spaces within walking distance of the scenic home, The Abbey Grounds.

You can get in touch with any burning question by emailing info@wicklowchristmasmarket.com, or through Facebook, Wicklowchristmasmarket.com, Instagram @wicklowchristmasmarket, or Twitter: @MarketWicklow

everyone is welcome to attend and browse through the stalls and treat-filled venue. This is a wheelchair and buggy friendly event not to be missed. Come along, and let Christmas begin!

This is a non-ticketed event, so anyone and



*Ann O'Neill and Ellen Fox-Lanigan sharing a cuppa at the fundraising event*

## Tinahely Cuppa raises €2,200 for Christmas Lights

**It was a very busy morning in Tinahely on Saturday 9th November, when a huge crowd gathered in the Courthouse Arts Centre to lend their generous support to the coffee morning fundraiser.**

The event was a resounding success, raising over €2,200 to help fund the Tinahely Christmas lights projects. The Arts Centre was buzzing with conversation and the home-baked cakes went down a treat!

Organiser Ellen Fox-Lanigan said "The support for this coffee morning was overwhelming, and this illustrates the big-hearted generosity of the Tinahely community and beyond."

"Our fundraising efforts would not be possible without the valued support of our sponsors, supporters and volunteers. Many thanks to everyone who donated the wonderful selection of freshly baked cakes and goodies. Thanks to all who very generously offered raffles prizes."

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

## Greystones lights to be switched on this Saturday

**It's that wonderful time of the year again as Greystones 2020, Greystones Municipal District and local businesses come together to support the installation of Christmas lights and the festivities around Santa's arrival.**

This year's lighting event will kick off in Burnaby Park at 4:00pm on Saturday, 23rd November, with an afternoon of family entertainment with Paul Byrne as MC. There will be music and songs by Colaiste Chraobh Abhann School choir and performances from 'Greystones Players'.

This year Greystones will welcome the Holyhead Male Voice Choir for some festive songs in advance of their Gala Concert with the Newtownmountkennedy Male Voice Choir in Greystones Rugby Club later that night. Local clergy will relate the true spirit of Christmas in a short ecumenical service and the lights will be switched on by the Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District, Cllr Tom Fortune, and Ms Gráinne McLoughlin, Chairperson of Greystones 2020.

At 5:00 pm Santa will arrive to meet and greet all the children in a special vehicle courtesy of our twinning partners from Holyhead. Let the Christmas Magic begin in Greystones!

## Light up your Christmas in Wicklow Town

**Christmas comes to Wicklow town on Saturday, November 23rd, when the annual Santa Parade gets underway and the Christmas lights are turned on.**

There will be a special appearance from Santa Claus and performances from Wicklow Pipe Band, Wicklow Community Choir and Robert Vickers, it promises to be a treat filled family event.

The Santa parade will begin at Market Square at 4pm and finish in Fitzwilliam Square where the Christmas lights will be switched on and the live music events will take place.

To ensure crowd safety, road closures (Main Street) will take effect from 4pm until 6pm and people are advised to leave sufficient time to park and walk to the Santa Parade. Children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian at all times.

The Santa Parade and Christmas Lights 2019 is organised by Wicklow Town & District Chamber of Commerce and Wicklow Municipal District.

The Wicklow Christmas Market is back again, bigger and better than last year. There will be a Santa Express experience this year where Oribel, their mischievous and fun elf, will transport passengers on a magical journey to Santa's Wonderland.

All of the elves are childcare educated and fully trained SNAs (Special Needs Assistants) who have been hand-picked by Mrs Claus from Ray of Sunshine childcare service.

A special sensory Santa Express train will run at 11am-12pm on Sunday, 8th of December. Lights and music will be calmer although just as happy and festive. One carer goes free per booking.

The Christmas Market will be held this year on the 23rd, 24th & 30th of November and 1st, 7th, 8th, 14th & 15th of December from 12pm-6pm.

Further information can be found on: [www.wicklowchristmasmarket.com](http://www.wicklowchristmasmarket.com)



*Three Trouts Bridge Club held their Annual Charity Day at the Bridge Centre in Greystones and raised €2,350 for Greystones Cancer Support. Pictured are Cynthia O Dúnlain, President Three Trouts Bridge Club, and Mary O'Neill, Greystones Cancer Support*



**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the following vacancies.

### BURIAL GROUND REGISTRARS

REF. NO. 32/2019

- Three Mile Water
- Barndarrig

Salary range from €1,500.00 to €3,500.00 gross per annum depending on Burial Ground and number of internments per annum. Application Forms and further details may be obtained from the Enterprise & Corporate Services Department (0404-20159) by email to [recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie) or website: [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)

**CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS IS  
12.00 NOON ON THURSDAY 5TH DECEMBER, 2019**

Wicklow County Council reserves the right to shortlist candidates in the manner it deems most appropriate.

Wicklow County Council is an equal opportunities employer.

Thomas Murphy,  
Director of Services,  
Enterprise & Corporate Services,  
Wicklow County Council,  
County Buildings, Wicklow.

Phone No: 0404 - 20100 / Direct 20159  
Fax No: 0404 - 20112  
Email: [recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie)



Ethna and Tina Neiland at the Wicklow Lions Club table quiz in The Mariner, Wicklow Town

## 31 Wicklow clubs benefit from Sports Capital Grants

Minister Simon Harris TD has announced that 31 Wicklow sports clubs are to receive just under €1.1million in Government funding through the Sports Capital Grant.

Minister Harris said: "I am delighted that the funding announced is going to benefit 31 clubs in Wicklow. Between them they will receive €1,079,820. Active engagement in sports not only helps keep young people healthy, but also builds confidence, independence and promotes team building."

"This important Government funding will greatly benefit sports clubs across Wicklow over the coming year. The Sports Capital Programme was re-instated by Fine Gael in 2012, after it was cut by Fianna Fáil in the wake of the economic crash. It is a real lifeline for teams, clubs and organisations here in County Wicklow."

Among the Wicklow clubs and projects to benefit

are: Bray Emmets GAA Club - for flood light pitches and improved facilities; Greystones Cricket Club - New Farankelly Ground and equipment Project; Donard Glen Gaelic Football Club - for facilities improvements; Kiltegan GAA Club - renovation & extension to club house; Newcastle Community Centre - for installation of showers and changing facilities; Our Lady's School Rathdrum - for a new school hall and multi sport facility.

"It is so important to encourage people to play sport. Not only is it good for their physical health but it benefits their mental health too. Supporting sports teams, clubs and organisations is also tantamount to supporting community engagement and helps to foster strong community spirit."

## COPD Advice Day in Bray

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 2pm.

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. 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. Between 2016 and 2018, 883 from Wicklow were hospitalised due to COPD. Indeed, 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."

## St. Columcille's Hospital urges everyone in Wicklow to be Winter Ready

Thursday, 14th of November, saw the HSE announce their Winter Plan for 2019/2020. During winter, hospitals, and in particular their Emergency Departments (EDs), are under pressure due to increased demand from the public.

That's why St. Columcille's Hospital, Loughlinstown is asking you to prepare for this winter season by: Getting the Flu Vaccine and making sure your pneumonia vaccine is up to date. Making sure you have enough medication for over the Christmas period. Talking to your pharmacist or healthcare provider about taking the correct doses of your medication; Confirming you know how to use any medical devices you might need; Planning what to do if you become ill; Knowing your symptoms.

CEO of St. Columcille's Hospital, Loughlinstown, Linda O'Leary, has said, "Winter and all that's associated with it will bring extra pressure to all hospitals and St Columcille's is no different. Our excellent staff are prepared as much as they can be. Our injuries unit is one of the best in the country. We just ask everyone becomes winter ready if they're not already, and they become familiar with all their treatment options."

There is also an Injuries Unit in St. Columcille's Hospital, Loughlinstown. This means that if you become unwell or suffer a fall and need to be seen urgently, an Injuries Unit is an option for you before an ED. You can be treated for minor injuries including broken bones, dislocations, sprains, strains, wounds, scalds and minor burns in an Injury Unit. This reduces the pressure and waiting times in EDs.

It's also crucial you know your GPs opening hours over the winter and have their contact details. You can find GP Out of Hours Service for Wicklow on HSE Out of Hours website. Be aware of your local pharmacy's opening hours as well. Pharmacists can be your first port of call if you feel a cold or other illness coming on.

The Flu Vaccine is a crucial tool to protect yourself against sickness this winter. Especially for those over 65, women who are pregnant and children. You can get your vaccine in your pharmacy or GP.

The frailty work being carried out by St. Columcille's Hospital, Loughlinstown means elderly or physically vulnerable patients who attend our ED will be seen in a timely fashion, when possible, and given specific treatment which will hopefully allow them to return to their home. This frees up our doctors and nurses to treat those who need it most.

The HSE is also providing a whole suite of information online, through their website, this includes Under the Weather, Stay Well this Winter and Injury Units. This offers information on the flu vaccine, antibiotics, your injury unit and emergency care.

St. Columcille's Hospital, Loughlinstown asks anyone who feels they might need a healthcare professional over winter to protect themselves as best they can from getting sick and explore all their options before they attend their local ED for treatment.

## Fundraising campaign helps poisoned dog

A fundraising campaign was created last week for a critically ill Co. Wicklow dog that was being kept alive in UCD's intensive care unit.

Last Monday morning Riley, owned by Karen Tiernan from Kilbride, accidentally ingested a large amount human back pain medication which was delivered by the postman. The box of medicine was delivered at the same time as a box containing Christmas dog treats.

Karen was advised that the cost to keep Riley alive may rise as high as €8,000, with improvement tending to only show between 36 and 48 hours in such cases of massive toxicity.

Karen, who works in the UCD pet emergency hospital, explains that "Riley was left on her own for a few minutes, she got the package down and ripped it apart. Unfortunately the tablets were loose in a little plastic tub, not in blister packs. So she ate a lot of them. We rushed her to the vets. The level of poisoning was severe due to the amount she had ingested and the fact they are absorbed so quickly."

Setting up a GoFundMe page for Riley, Karen was able to raise over €4,000 to keep Riley in the



Riley waking up after treatment

UCD intensive care unit, which was fortunate as what Karen had first hoped would be an overnight stay soon turned into a couple of days. On Tuesday night, Riley had still not come around and was still unresponsive when petted or spoken to.

By Wednesday evening, however, Karen was happy to report that Riley's condition had improved and she would soon be let home. Karen has thanked everyone for donations, messages and kindness.



Riley in UCD's pet intensive care unit

# DRUG FREE HEALING FOR

(F.D.A. APPROVED)



AIR OR GAS EMBOLISM  
 DELAYED RADIATION INJURY (SOFT TISSUE AND BONY NECROSIS)  
 REFRACTORY OSTEOMYELITIS (INFECTED BONE)  
 SKIN GRAFTS AND FLAPS (COMPROMISED)  
 THERMAL BURNS  
 CRUSH INJURY, COMPARTMENT SYNDROME,  
 AND OTHER ACUTE TRAUMATIC ISCHEMIAS.  
 ENHANCEMENT OF HEALING IN SELECTED PROBLEM  
 WOUNDS (DIABETIC WOUNDS)  
 EXCEPTIONAL BLOOD LOSS (ANEMIA)  
 INTRACRANIAL ABSCESS, ACTINOMYCOSIS  
 NECROTIZING SOFT TISSUE INFECTIONS  
 DECOMPRESSION SICKNESS  
 CLOSTRIDAL MYOSITIS AND MYONECROSIS, (GAS GANGRENE)  
***IN ADDITION, THE UK MS SOCIETY RECOMMENDS ITS USE  
 AS AN ADJUNCT TREATMENT FOR MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS***

## WITH HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY

HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY (HBOT) IS A TREATMENT OF THE ENTIRE BODY WITH 100-PERCENT OXYGEN  
 AT GREATER THAN NORMAL ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURES.

While not new, HBOT has only lately begun to gain recognition for treatment of chronic degenerative health problems. Wherever blood flow and oxygen delivery to vital organs is reduced, function and healing can potentially be aided with HBOT. For further information contact us on the numbers below or check out [www.hyperbaricireland.com](http://www.hyperbaricireland.com)



National Hyperbaric Centre, 53-54 Great Strand Street, D1.  
 P: (01) 873 3044, Fax: (01) 873 3969  
 Emergency: 087 972 9366  
 Email: [hyperinfo@eircom.net](mailto:hyperinfo@eircom.net) [www.hyperbaricireland.com](http://www.hyperbaricireland.com)



Wicklow artist RM Kavanagh, aka Rasher, pictured at the opening of his latest exhibition 'Chrysalis' in the Dean Hotel in Dublin. Pic: Andres Poveda

## Exhibition by Greystones Art Group for month of November

A floral themed exhibition by Greystones Art Group is running in Greystones Library for the month of November. The exhibition titled 'Blathanna' features 30 paintings by local artists.



'Flowers of River, Italy', by Sinead Wyse

This is the first time that Greystones Art Group has exhibited in Greystones Library and they are delighted to be using this local venue to present a group show of their member's artwork. Sinead Wyse from Greystones Art Group said "we're very grateful to Greystones Library for letting us use their lovely, town centre space. All paintings are priced at €50 euro each and are about A5 in size in various mediums and styles. They would make a perfect Christmas present".

Established in 1965, Greystones Art Group is one of Ireland's longest running art groups. It has

a diverse set of members and is a fun and inspirational way to practice in a creative space.

The main purpose of the group was, and still is today, to encourage amateur artists. The aim is to advance members artistic knowledge and skills through on-going lectures and demonstrations. In

addition there are also Annual Exhibitions of paintings and other works of art, for all members, both amateur and professional.

More information can be found at [www.greystonesartgroup.com](http://www.greystonesartgroup.com) including biographies and sample work from a variety of members.

# Carnew Musical Society presents: Oklahoma

The final countdown has begun for Carnew Musical Society's production of Oklahoma which will open on Monday night next the 25th of November at 8pm sharp in St. Brigid's Hall, Carnew and will run until Saturday 30th November 2019.

The cast and crew under direction of Michael Dunbar, the musical direction of Lar Duffy and choreographer, Frances Ryan have been working tirelessly for the last few months and are now looking forward to performing the show which is shaping up to be a cracker.

The show includes many of the most popular songs ever written including "...Oh what a beautiful Morning", 'The Surrey with the Fringe on Top', 'Kansas City, I Cain't Say No', 'Many a new Day Will Dawn' and the title tune 'Oklahoma'.

Association of Irish Musical Society's (AIMS) Best Male Singer 2009, Pádraig D'Arcy stars in the role of Curly while Erin Hogan from Gorey plays the part of Laurey. Graham Finnerty will play the part of Will Parker and Ado Annie will be played by Ellie Willoughby. Ellie was nominated for best actress for her role as Annie in Carnew MS production of Annie Get your Gun, while 2019 AIMS Best Comedienne, Jennifer Byrne plays the part of Aunt Eller. AIMS nominee John Young plays Jud Fry, and for his first time with Carnew Musical Society, renowned Actor, Ronan Byrne will play Ali Hakim.

Carnew MS would not be the same without an appearance from Sean Hallahan who will partake in his 51st production with the society and will play Andrew Carnes. Jimmy Spellacy who played Curly the last time Carnew did OKLAHOMA! in 1996 will play Cord Elam and the hilarious Miriam Murphy will play the giggling Gertie Cummings.

Vital to the production is the backstage crew who include Set Designer, Tony Barry, Set Construction

crew led by Lar Duffy and Stage Manager Tommy Kavanagh. The set painting is by John Hempenstall.

The costuming will be undertaken by Jacinta Kavanagh and her crew, hair by Marion O'Toole and crew and makeup by Eileen Tormey McCabe and award-winning lighting expert is Kevin McEvoy.

Getting ready to welcome all patrons to St. Bridget's Hall for our show is the Society's President, Debbie Furlong, who is the Front of House Manager. The unique hand painted road signage and sign on the Theatre are the artistry of Denis and Louise Fox. At the helm, organising all aspects of the show is a hard-working committee under the leadership of Chairman, Lorna Doran McEvoy.

Admission Prices are: Monday: Floor €10, Balcony 16; Tuesday to Friday: Floor €15, Balcony €18.

Booking is now open for the public between 11 am and 12pm and 1:30pm and 4:30pm daily. Booking Number 087 698 5275

Also to help with the cost of staging their annual show, Carnew Musical Society have a wonderful Super Draw each year and this year's prizes are again fabulous:

1st Prize: Designer Necklace (Value €250) Sponsored by McGuire Diamonds, Gorey; 2nd Prize €200 Sponsored by Ian Pearson, Orbital Fabrications UK; 3rd Prize: Super Christmas Hamper including Turkey (Value €150) Sponsored by C.J. O'Loughlin Quality Foods, Courtown; 4th Prize: €100. Fuel Voucher Sponsored by Glen Fuels, Gorey. The Draw will take place after the Final performance of Oklahoma on Saturday 30th November.

## Local artists exhibit at Art Source

Wicklow artists, Louise Cherry and Stephanie Sloan, both had their artwork exhibited over the weekend at the RDS Art Source art fair. Louise and Stephanie are the co-founders of The Venue Gallery, the contemporary pop up art gallery, which opened its doors for the first time in Wicklow Town this July.

Their inaugural show, 'Catching Light' was a huge success and brought colour and life to Wicklow Main Street. Both working from Wicklow based home studios, Louise and Stephanie, pictured above, formed the gallery as a result of a mutual desire to form better supports and visibility for contemporary artists in county Wicklow.

The gallery aims to combine the provision of a exhibition space along with creating a community space for anyone interested in developing their knowledge in the visual arts.

During the Art Source

Fair, Louise was showing her new collection of abstract paintings, acrylic and oils on canvas, pictured here and Stephanie will be exhibiting her hand made screen prints.

Louise Cherry has an extensive art practice that includes painting, photography, film, sculpture, performance and writing. Her current work of abstract paintings are an elaborate investigation of painting layers and layer deconstruction. Each painting shows a depth and hint of numerous layering in the final image.

These vibrant challeng-

ing canvases are the product of a brave process of painting, destroying, painting again and repeating the process until the final images is discovered. They will not disappoint, there is something in the depth of the images that will intrigue and please everyone in the audience. Through her paintings Louise is exploring the unplanned process of creating and the daily challenge of the unknown when brush touches canvas.

Stephanie Sloan, artist and co-founder of The Venue Gallery is graduate of the Royal College of Art, London and the National College of Art and Design, Dublin. Stephanie Sloan is an illustrator and printmaker working from her studio in Wicklow. Evident across all her work is a love of pattern and graphic form and a continued passion for the handprinted process of screen printing. Stephanie combines working on commissioned illustration with creating limited edition handprinted screen prints.



Wicklow artists Louise Cherry and Stephanie Sloan

# County winners named in 'Someone Like Me' national art competition

**Scoil Mhuire Réalt na Mara, Brittas Bay and Wicklow Montessori Primary School, Ballyguile have been named Junior and Senior County Winners, respectively, of the prestigious national art competition, Someone Like Me, which will see them join 47 other schools to compete for the much sought-after national title at an awards ceremony to be held at Dublin City Hall on Tuesday 3rd December, the International Day of People with Disabilities.**



The Wicklow junior winning project from Scoil Mhuire Réalt na Mara.

The competition, which is supported by the National Disability Authority, attracted more than 2,600 entries from national schools across the length and breadth of the country. Now in its fourth year, Someone Like Me aims to raise disability awareness among primary school children and give them a greater understanding of what unites children of differing abilities.

In order to enter the competition, teachers and their pupils worked through a special lesson plan which challenged them to respond artistically and creatively to the theme of Someone Like Me, while, at the same time, appreciating and respecting similarities and differences in people, developing a shared understanding of how we should treat others in a caring, sensitive and inclusive way, and promoting a sense of belonging and

connectedness.

The judges were particularly impressed with the submissions from pupils and teachers from Scoil Mhuire Réalt na Mara and Wicklow Montessori Primary School, selecting them as County Winners based on their insightful and inspirational responses to the theme.

Congratulating Scoil Mhuire Réalt na Mara and Wicklow Montessori Primary School on being named County Winners, Minister of State with special responsibility for Disabilities, Finian McGrath T.D. said that he was hugely encouraged by the growing interest in the competition.

"We are exceptionally pleased with the response to this year's competition which illustrates just how willing our primary school teachers and pupils are to help build a more inclusive Ireland where everyone, irrespective of ability or disability, is treated with equal respect and feels like a valued member of society," he said.

The 1st and 2nd Class group from Scoil Mhuire Réalt na Mara, created a book of children's drawings showing ways to be kind to each other and celebrate our differences. The 3rd and 4th Class

Group from Wicklow Montessori Primary School created a painted poster with symbols and signs representing different disabilities. Each symbol is linked by a chain in a circle and the caption reads 'We are all linked'. Scoil Mhuire Réalt na Mara and Wicklow Montessori Primary School will now go on to compete with 47 other schools from around the country for the overall national Someone Like Me award which will be announced at a ceremony at Dublin City Hall on Tuesday 3rd December, the International Day of People with Disabilities.



The Senior Winning project from Wicklow Montessori Primary School

## Coming up at The Mermaid...

### Theatre: Jon Kenny in Crowman

Jon Kenny comes to Mermaid on Thursday 21st November at 8pm with his new play Crowman. In it Jon plays numerous characters but the primary one is Dan, a man in his 50s who is living alone. He is a loner and feels himself an outsider looking in on the community but he discovers during the play that he is not as much an outsider as he thinks.

When he hears about the passing of a dear friend, he is forced to look back on his own troubled youth and face up to his demons. The play is at times poignant and tragic but also has a warmth and humour as Jon slips seamlessly in and out of the many uproariously funny characters.

The people he depicts are surreal and humorous but tinged with tragedy and Jon plays each with his amazing ability of character acting and hilarious humour.

The play received standing ovations every night during a run in Cork Midsummer festival at the Granary. Tickets cost €20/18 and are available from [mermaidartscentre.ie](http://mermaidartscentre.ie) and box office on 01-2724030

### Music: Crash Ensemble

Crash Ensemble is Ireland's leading new music ensemble; a group of world-class musicians who play the most adventurous, ground-breaking music of today. Crash Ensemble are adventurous, innovative and ambitious. Performing as a quartet the group will present music by Irish composers Amy Rooney, Barry O'Hanlon, Grainne Mulvey, Sam Perkin, Judith Ring and Brian Bolger plus György Ligeti in Mermaid on Friday 22nd November at 8pm.

Founded in 1997 by composer Donnacha Dennehy, some of the most distinctive living composers have written for the group, including Terry Riley, David Lang, Michael Gordon, Louis Andriessen, Arnold Dreyblatt, Kevin Volans, Glenn Branca, Nico Muhly and Gerald Barry.

Many well-known artists from diverse musical backgrounds have performed with the ensemble; Gavin Friday, Dawn Upshaw, Julie Feeney, Lisa Hannigan, Íarla Ó Lionáird (The Gloaming), Bryce Dessner (The National), Richard Reed Parry (Arcade Fire), Sam Amidon and Beth Orton.

As well as performing throughout Ireland, Crash regularly perform internationally, with appearances in the last few years at the Edinburgh International Festival, The Royal Opera House (London), The Barbican (London), Carnegie Hall (NYC) The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Washington DC), Virginia Tech (Virginia), GAIDA Festival (Lithuania) and residencies at The Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival (UK), Princeton University (NJ) and Musica Nova Helsinki.

Tickets cost €18/16 and are available on [mermaidartscentre.ie](http://mermaidartscentre.ie) and box office on 01-2724030.



Pictured at the Toastie Festival in the Harbour Bar in Bray were Nicole Moore, Mica O'Dwyer, and Dani Tormey. Pic: Joe Keogh

## National Gallery hosts Wicklow schoolchildren for 'Creative Schools Week' finale event

The National Gallery hosted the finale celebrations of 'Creative Schools Week' on 8th November with Creative Schools from Dublin and Wicklow. This included an orchestral performance from 60 primary students from Bunscoil Loreto, Dublin, and pupils from North Wicklow ENTS leading a climate change banner-making workshop.

Creative Schools Week ran from Monday 4th to Friday 8th November. The events gave children and young people from across Ireland the opportunity to lead, to take over, to showcase and to share their learning and engagement in the artistic, cultural and creative life of their school and the wider community. Arts Council Director, Orlaith McBride, said: "The Arts Council has worked for many years ensuring that the arts are embedded in the lives of children. Creative Schools offers a wonderful opportunity for children and young people to experience the arts in their school environment working with artists, teachers, arts organisations and the whole school community. Creativity and the capacity to be imaginative and innovative are critical life skills which access to the arts can nurture and develop. We are very proud to be supporting this inaugural Creative Schools Week across the country this week and hope that it will only grow and expand as we continue to develop the programme."



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Libby Costello and Sarah O'Sullivan at the Arklow Girl Guide 80th Anniversary Mass in Sts. Mary & Peter's Church, Arklow

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### The Law! The Law! The Law!

Everything has to be within the law, and everything has to be green. Everybody is now an environmentalist. Éanna Ní Lamhna, biologist on Mooney Goes Wild on RTE Radio, said "for more than forty years we have been telling them to protect our environment". The very next weekend I heard a sudden very loud noise. When I looked, I saw one of those noisy planes. Worse than annoying me, it had frightened a small flock of about 10 to 12 whimbrel or curlew, which flew past close to me. Because of the high speed they were flying at, there is no doubt the noise frightened them.

The **Wicklow Times**, 15th of October 2019, had an article on the curlew. I personally am more than twenty years trying to protect the curlew and all the other endangered flora and fauna within the Kilcoole area: ask your TD for a copy of my letter to them, asking them to investigate the ongoing illegal destruction of Kilcoole. The 1999 Plan, covering four counties, made Kilcoole a greenbelt, and that plan is legal. To you the new green and the born-again environmentalists, I ask you also to request a copy of my letter to the TDs.

Now there is vandalism! Please get out your dictionary to see its meaning. I also read in the **Wicklow Times** that some ignoramus wants to further destroy the beauty of the coastline from the Murragh at Wicklow to Kilcoole and on to Greystones with wind farms. Don't let it start. I did say in my letter, that the dogs and the planes should be stopped. This most natural area is nationally and internationally known for its wildlife. I ask you, the afore mentioned, to crawl back into your capitalist textbook and leave God's creation be. I think nature-loving walkers will understand why this beauty must be protected.

Charlie Keddy, Kilcoole

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# Wicklow residents urged to check the Draft Register of Electors

**Sinn Féin TD John Brady has called on Wicklow residents to check the Draft Register of Electors to ensure that they are registered to vote. The Draft register was published on November 1st and people have until November 25th to check it and to get registered if they are not on it.**

Deputy Brady said "Every election there are many people who want to vote but unfortunately find out when it's too late that they have been removed from the register, or that they have missed the deadline to get registered. The Draft Register of Electors for Wicklow was published by the council on 1st November and will be on display online and across the County until 25th November.

"With the General Election likely to take place early in 2020, it's really important that people check the Draft Register to ensure that they can vote in the election when it's called. People assume that because they voted in the last election that they will be still registered in the next election. Unfortunately due to the outdated system in operation in this State that is not the case as people can be removed for a

number of reasons."

Deputy Brady continued "Checking the Draft Register is a simple process. The draft will be on display until November 25th in County Council and Municipal District offices, Garda stations, libraries and post offices. Members of the public can also check if they are registered at [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie), or by calling into either of my constituency offices in Bray or Arklow.

"There is a particular issue for people living in some apartment complexes as many residents are not on the register. The field workers that go door to door for the council updating the register can't access these apartments and people are disenfranchised because of where they live. I estimate that hundreds of people across North Wicklow are denied their vote due to the flawed system in operation in the State."

Deputy Brady concluded "The voter registration process needs to change to ensure that everyone entitled to vote, get one. In the meantime if on 15 February 2020 you are aged 18 or over check that your name, address and other details are present and correct on the Draft Register. If you're not on the draft register you can do so by contacting the council or by filling in a simple form that can be downloaded from any Garda station, library and post office. Checking now can save a lot of disappointment when the election does take place and you discover you can't vote."

## Fintan McHugh comes to the Hot Spot

Three years after his critically acclaimed folk/ Irish traditional debut *Wait Till The Clouds Roll By*, Fintan McHugh's long awaited second album titled *Stardust And Bone* will be re-released on 22nd November at the Hotspot Music Club in Greystones.

In the spirit of the traveling troubadour Fintan McHugh sings and accompanies himself on the guitar, the Irish-cittern and harmonica. *Stardust And Bone* is an album of original songs by Fintan which shows him in a more personal and independent light.

As *Wait Till The Clouds Roll By*, *Stardust And Bone* remains true to an acoustic intimacy and poise. Fintan's songwriting skills are paved with his unique vocal style and his characteristic guitar playing to form an outstanding album of eleven songs to stir the heart and soul. *Stardust And Bone* invites the listener to dream and long for more from this uniquely talented artist. Fintan is an extraordinary musician and singer.

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### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Stanford Woods Healthcare Ltd seeks permission for the development which will comprise a predominantly two-storey residential care building with an attic plant room and storage area. The gross floor area will be 12,067 m<sup>2</sup> of which 5,575 m<sup>2</sup> is at ground floor level; 5,377 m<sup>2</sup> is at first floor; and a further 1,115 m<sup>2</sup> is at attic floor level. The accommodation will comprise ensuite bedrooms, day spaces, balconies at upper floor level and ancillary sanitary accommodation for residents with support services such as recreation/activity rooms, physiotherapy suite, treatment and occupational therapy rooms, Oratory, Daycare and hairdressing. It will include a facility run café (open to the public), administration offices; staff rest, dining, changing and training facilities; catering kitchens, laundry, plant room, maintenance workshop and electrical switch room; a substation and standby generator. The site will be fully landscaped with provision of sensory gardens and walkways including gazebo features and mounted screen planting 1.2 m above finished ground level. Employee, service and visitor car and covered cycle parking will be provided. The existing site entrance from the L1043 will be improved and, with a driveway, provide the primary access. The existing access from the L5406 will be improved to provide a recreational and emergency gated access from/to Willowgrove. Storm water will be discharged to attenuation and percolation systems on site. Foul drainage will be discharged to a proposed Wicklow County Council/IW pumping station on the L1043 south of the site, at Willowgrove, Killucabawn, Kilpedder, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.



### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I Tracey Ferguson seeks full planning permission for a new two storey dwelling house with single storey side element, widening existing vehicular access to public road to front, widening pedestrian access to existing dwelling house to form a new vehicular access to serve existing dwelling house and all associated ancillary works at 25 Varty Heights, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I, Diarmuid O'Brien intend to apply to Wicklow County Council for Planning Permission to construct a new 495sq.m sheep shed, new water well and associated site works at Magheramore, Wicklow, Co. Wicklow. This Planning Application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Co. Wicklow during its public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to this application may be made in writing to the Planning Authority on payment of the prescribed fee, within the period of five weeks, beginning on the date of receipt of the application by the Authority and such submissions or observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on the Application. The Planning Authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

S K Design (0402 94680) seeks full planning permission on behalf of Margaret Pless to install an effluent treatment system and percolation area to comply with current EPA requirements and associated works at The Hunt Lodge, Coolattin, Shillelagh, Co. Wicklow. The works are within the curtilage of a protected structure Reg No 16404306. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.



Maureen Dunne and her team at Maureen's Unwanted Gift Coffee Morning in aid of Wicklow Cancer Support and St. Patrick's Church in the Pastoral Centre, Wicklow Town.

## Christmas Island at Hidden Valley Resort

**Christmas Island at Hidden Valley Resort, Rathdrum, is open from November 23rd to December 23rd.**

Santa and his Elves have been working extra hard all year to bring you the most magical Christmas Experience yet. The children receive exciting mini gifts all along the way plus their present from Santa.

Celebrate this season with a journey on the North Pole Express train, a trip to Christmas Island where everyone will make a Christmas ornament for their tree, a visit with the dancing Elves, a visit to the new Elves workshop and last, but not least, a special visit with Santa. Also available on the day Santa's Lakehouse will be serving a beautiful Christmas carvery with festive desserts and drinks, and offering Letters to Santa, Christmas Cinema Room, Face Painting, Christmas Fairy Door Creations and Family Photos on Santa's Sleigh.

Adults: €16.50 Children: €22.50 Infants: €10.00. Book Online at [www.christmasisland.ie](http://www.christmasisland.ie).

## Christmas lantern workshop

**Learn about sustainability and low-carbon energy choices at Cool Planet Experience's Christmas Lantern Workshops.**

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Wicklow Educate Together National School is a co-educational Primary School in Wicklow Town, under the patronage of Educate Together. The school has an enrolment of 412 students and 50 staff.

Wicklow Educate Together N.S. invites applications for the position of School Caretaker (part-time). This position is 20 hours per week. The successful applicant must be able to work the hours during the times as agreed by the Principal / BOM.

Ideally applicants will have general maintenance and groundskeeping skills, as well as an understanding of caretaking duties.

Please send a Letter of Application and Curriculum Vitae including at least 2 referees to:

Chairperson Board of Management, Wicklow Educate Together National School, Hawkstown Road, Wicklow Town, A67 E371 OR by email to [wetnsjobs@gmail.com](mailto:wetnsjobs@gmail.com)

Applications must be received no later than **6pm on Monday 2nd of December 2019**.

For postal applications please mark the envelope 'Caretaker Application 2019' For email applications please mark the subject as "Caretaker Application 2019" Candidates may be shortlisted by reference to their application and CV. Garda Vetting will be required before appointment.

# CLASSIFIED ADS & PLANNING / APPOINTMENTS

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