



CLASSIC HARMONY page 2



O'BRIEN SELECTED page 4



ARKLOW CYCLIST page 9

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Tuesday 26th November 2019 5 Eglinton Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow Tel: 01 - 2869111 www.wicklowtimes.net E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie

RURAL BROADBAND LAUNCHED

Laragh was the location for the signing of the National Broadband Plan last Tuesday morning and it is the biggest investment in infrastructure in the history of the State. An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar was joined by Ministers Simon Harris and Andrew Doyle, and other cabinet Ministers, at the signing of the contract with National Broadband Ireland, the company that will deliver the project.

The event has been mired in controversy however with opposition TDs claiming it was not a government announcement but rather a Fine Gael stunt to coincide with the four by-elections.

Laragh based TD Pat Casey said he had to 'gate crash' the event and for a while was denied access. The government claims it invited all TDs but an email sent to John Bray at 8 o'clock that morning merely says "Minister Bruton will be visiting St Kevin's NS, Laragh this

morning at 10:20am" - no mention of the Taoiseach or Tanaiste being there, no mention of 6 other Ministers being there, no mention of Department General Secretaries and staff being there and crucially no mention that the broadband contract was going to be signed there.

Whilst most of the Wicklow Fine Gael councillors were present no councillor from any other party was present.

Speaking after the event Minister Simon Harris TD said: "High speed broadband is a crit-

ical piece of infrastructure for families and businesses in County Wicklow. Under the contract signed by the government 14000 premises across county Wicklow will benefit from the government investment in broadband.

"I was delighted the Taoiseach, Tanaiste and Minister for Communication could visit St Kevin's National School and the Brockagh Resource Centre to meet the community and demonstrate the government's commitment to



Pupils from St. Kevin's National School in Laragh experiencing the lightning fast broadband now on offer. National Broadband Ireland (NBI) signed the historic contract last week to deliver the National Broadband Plan across the island of Ireland.

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rural communities.

"The future will be about home and remote working, students accessing more and more information online, distance learning, smart-farming, remote healthcare and so much more. None of this will be possible without high-speed, future-proofed, broadband. Today's announcement in Laragh, is quite simply the biggest investment in rural Ireland since electrification. Fine Gael is delivering on transforming the country for the better and providing more opportunities to all."

Speaking at the signing of the contract, Minister Andrew Doyle said "This is a landmark day for Co. Wicklow and for rural Ireland generally. The Government has signed a contract for the National Broadband Plan which plans to rollout high speed broadband. The

work will start immediately, with roll-out of broadband within eight weeks of last week's contract signing. Over 90% of premises in the State will have access to high speed broadband within four years.

"There are 14,871 premises across Co. Wicklow in the State Intervention area. Quite simply this means that rural communities in Wicklow will not be left behind. All of rural Ireland will get the same access to opportunities offered by high-speed broadband as those in urban areas.

"The ultimate goal here is to deliver high-speed broadband to homes and businesses all across the country which will be hugely beneficial to economic development and job creation in Wicklow.

Continued on Page 3

RUSSBOROUGH HOUSE PRESENTS
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John Young, Miriam Murphy, and Ronan Byrne are pictured at the launch of Carnew Musical Society's production of *Oklahoma!*, which can be seen in St. Bridgit's Hall, Carnew, this week from Monday November 25th to Saturday November 30th.

Bray School Project Christmas Fair

Bray School Project's fabulous fun-filled Christmas Fair will take place on Sunday 1st December 11am - 3pm. This great annual family event will have traditional market stalls, crafts, cakes and food treats, fun and games, bric-a-brac, gifts galore and more. Visit Santa in his magical grotto and enjoy festive food and snacks in the Restaurant & Café. Perhaps you will be lucky in the Fantastic Raffle. The school is located on the Killarney Road, Bray just off the N11 at Exit 7 Bray South.

Conary Church annual sale

Conary Parish Church is 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.

Delgany Thursday Group

Delgany Thursday Group's Christmas Lunch will be on Thursday 5th December at 12.45pm, in the Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy. The cost is €25 per person. To book, contact Peter on 086 830 7644 or John on 086 356 6527.

History of the Irish pub

Kilmacanogue History Society presents 'The Irish Pub- A Social and Cultural History' on Tuesday 3rd December in Glenview Hotel at 8pm. The speaker is Dr. Breda Cunningham. Breda's Talk will focus on the social role of the public house in Irish society over time, which in turn has determined our drinking habits and practices.

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Greystones Christmas lunch

Christmas Lunch will be served in the Log Hall at the Presbyterian Church Greystones on Tuesday December 3rd from 12pm to 2pm. Everyone is welcome, €5 for soup, sandwiches, tea and coffee, much chatter too!

Laragh Christmas Lights

The big switch on for Laragh Christmas Lights will be on Sunday, 1st of December at 6pm with Santa coming to the green in front of Lynhams Hotel. Organisers wish to thank all the community support given this year to continue this fun, festive annual event.

Shankill Classical Music

The next meeting will be on Wed 4th December. Classical music on CDs: all genres - orchestral, instrumental, vocal, opera etc., in the usual venue - Shankill Day Centre, Lower Rd, Shankill, 7.45-10.00 pm. Car parking available. Visitors and new members always welcome. €2 on the night, tea and biscuits at the interval. Just come along, or see further details of the club on www.shankillclassical.org, or ring or text John on 087-2109175. The January 2020 meeting will be on the second Wednesday, i.e. Wednesday 8th.

Christmas Tree sale

St Cronan's Parent's Association annual Christmas tree sale will take place in the school grounds on Vevay Hill Bray on Saturday December 7th from 9am until 2pm, or until stock runs out. Prices start at €45 with delivery available for an extra €5. All money raised will go towards school equipment.

St. Anne's Parish Maintenance Fund Christmas Fair

The St. Anne's Parish Christmas Fair will be held on Sunday December 1st in St. Anne's Resource Centre, Dublin Road, Shankill, from 10am to 3pm. Lots of stalls and monster raffle with some great prizes to be won. Admission free.

Tir na nOg

Sonny Condell and Leo O'Kelly join forces on Friday November 29th for their annual appearance at the Hot Spot Music Club in Greystones as the legendary Tir na nOg.

They have been described as Alt Folk, Prog Folk, Psych Folk, and even Space Folk!. But the duo, formed by Leo and Sonny in 1970, transcends all these categories. What is not in doubt is that they are two of the most original and influential songwriters and performers Ireland has ever produced. Friday 29th November at the Hot Spot Music Club, doors 8pm. Tickets www.thehotspot.ie or 087 291 7519.

Classic Harmony win in Krakow

Family group Classic Harmony took top honours in Krakow, Poland on Saturday evening last. Formerly the Kelly Family Vocal Ensemble, the group comes from Ashford. They have just returned from the 4th Lions World Song Festival for the blind and visually impaired called 'Sounds from the Heart'.

Classic Harmony, Argentina, Iceland, Italy, Frank, Emily and John Kelly represented Ireland as well as Wicklow and District Lions Club in the biggest competition of its type in the world and took home the biggest prize.

The family members beat off stiff opposition from singers and musicians from Georgia, Poland, France, Belgium, Czech Republic, Morocco, Kosovo, Russia, as well as two other competitors from Ireland.

They are all members of one family and have sung together since they were very young and now produce a unique blend of close harmonies.

Four out of five members of the group are vision-impaired. Including father, Frank who is a musical director of five choirs in Wicklow and a choir for blind and vision-impaired people in Dublin.

There were three judges representing Poland, Holland and Ireland. Sean Olohan

from Wicklow represented Ireland and his local Wicklow and District Lions Club.

He was nominated as chairman of the Jury in Krakow and he was overjoyed to be invited to present the first prize to Classic Harmony in the magnificent Showacki Theatre in the centre of historic Krakow.



Family vocal group, Classic Harmony, from Wicklow, took the top prize at the Lions World Song Festival for the Blind

Dublin Simon Community Seeks Wicklow choirs to 'Sing for Simon'

Dublin Simon Community is seeking choirs, bands and volunteers in Wicklow to lend their voices to end homelessness by hosting a 'Sing for Simon' fundraising event in your local community, school or workplace throughout the month of December.

The organisation welcomes singers and musicians of all abilities and will support groups by providing Dublin Simon Community branded buckets, high-visibility vests, Santa Hats, song books, assistance in gaining permits for public areas and any other help or information that may be required.

Each year, 'Sing for Simon' sees over 100 groups and choirs singing Christmas hits and carols across Dublin, Wicklow, Kildare, Meath, Louth, Monaghan and Cavan to raise much-needed funds for Dublin Simon Community's vital life-saving services. Fundraising is conducted through bucket-shaking while singing at the event. Interested participants are encouraged to contact Steven Short at stevenshort@dubsimon.ie or on 085 870 1120.

Wicklow Willow basketry courses and Christmas vouchers

Spring courses begin in February and are suitable for both beginners and improvers. All courses are full-day, 9 to 5, and held in the Brockagh Centre, Glendalough. Courses include all material, tuition, tea/coffee, lunch (and cake!). You will make and bring home your own basket on the day!

Courses cost €85 and booking is essential. A deposit of €50 is required to book your place. Places are limited in Spring so be sure to book early.

Course Vouchers are now available and make a wonderful Christmas or Birthday present.

Available courses are as follows: Saturday February 15th; Sunday February 23rd; Sunday March 1st; Wednesday March 25th; Sunday April 12th.

There is also a two-day scarecrow-making workshop in the National Botanic Gardens on February 8th and 9th. Booking details at www.eventbrite.ie.

Remember to book early to get the dates you want. Extra dates may be added subject to demand.

WICKLOW
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LUGGALA GOES FOR A SONG

Luggala House and lands have been sold for €11,585,000, according to the online Property Price Register. The register detailed the sale as occurring on 30/10/2019 and stated that the property did not meet the full market price, which had been reported to be €28m.

Social Democrats Candidate for Wicklow, Cllr. Jennifer Whitmore expressed her disappointment that this iconic Wicklow estate was not purchased by the Government and protected for future generations. Over the past couple of years, Cllr. Whitmore has made repeated requests to the Minister for Culture and Heritage, Josepha Madigan to step in and purchase the estate. This did not happen, and the house and lands were recently bought by private purchase by a British based Italian count.

Cllr Whitmore said "Luggala Estate is an iconic estate for our county and is strategically important for our recreation and tourism industry. From an environmental perspective, it could have been incorporated into the Wicklow National Park and played a large part in addressing our biodiversity crisis. In fact, the National Parks and Wildlife Service recommended to the Minister that this happen.

"On top of all that, the lands are also of utmost importance to the Irish film industry, who voiced their concerns to me over the sale. Luggala has been

described as the 'Jewel in the Crown' of the film industry here and is the one site that all overseas film producers want to visit. A significant amount of filming on the site happens each year, and includes series such as Vikings. There was a real concern within the film industry that their access to the site would be limited if it was purchased by a private individual. Thankfully, that would not appear to be the case, as the new owner has indicated that they would allow access. However, once in private hands, there is always a risk that that arrangement could be changed into the future.

"Last year, I had the support of my fellow Councillors on Wicklow County Council to write to the Minister and request that she purchase the site. And a public petition by a concerned resident, Alec Dune, collected thousands of names. Unfortunately, those calls fell on deaf ears, and Wicklow, and Ireland, have lost an opportunity to purchase an iconic and important piece of land."

Cllr Whitmore continued "Whilst €11.5m (€2,300 per acre) is not an

insignificant sum, it equates to only 1 percent of the Department of Culture and Heritage's €1.2bn budget for their Capital Plan 'Investing in our Culture, Language & Heritage 2018-2027'. And with the amount of money that the film industry pays out on an annual basis in renting these lands, it could have paid for itself within a relatively short period. Surely, there was someone in this Government who could have realised what a treasure this site was and had the vision to protect it for future generations? This really is an opportunity lost and a decision that I believe we will regret for many years to come."

Local TD Pat Casey was also dismayed by the fact that the Government hadn't engaged to try and purchase the estate. "Someone got a bargain alright! The revelation that the unique and historic Luggala Estate and lands in Roundwood were sold for just over €11.5 million is extremely disappointing and represents a complete failure by Government to obtain an extraordinary heritage site. I met with Minister Madigan on this when the value of the sale

was €28 million and implored upon her that Luggala could be bought for much less than the asking price due to the protections and restrictions associated with such a scenic location.

"The Minister committed to engaging with the vendor on a reduced sale price. The visitor and heritage value of Luggala to Ireland would in a relatively short time return far more than the investment needed to purchase the site. The complete failure to negotiate a deal that would at least have secured the lands represents a total lack of commitment by the Government in relation to this once off opportunity."

John Brady TD was also astounded that the sale price was so low. "Why did the government not engage with the vendors. If they had bought the entire estate of 5,000 acres and then sold off the lodge and perhaps a hundred acres, the overall cost would have been in the low millions. It's just another case of the government being asleep at the wheel," he said.



Pictured are Caoimhe Bolger, Suzie Elliot, Carla Kavanagh, Mia McCann, Laurie Doherty, and Kate Costello who took part in the LGBTBI+ day at the Dominican College, Wicklow Town.

St. David's drop €250 application fee

St. David's Holy Faith Secondary School in Greystones has dropped a €250 application fee following complaints to the Department of Education from parents.

The school is now in the process of refunding the payments made by parents hoping to secure a place for their children for September 2022.

The practice of schools requesting a fee from parents as part of the application process was banned in 2018 by legislation which was introduced - Section 64 of the Education (Admissions to Schools) Act 2018.

However, when St. David's opened applications for the 2022/23 school year this summer, the application form requested that they enclose a €250 'administrative fee' to cover costs such as entrance assessment and associated administrative costs, insurance, postage, locker, journal, water, and well-being workshops.

The form stated that refunds would only be granted if no place is granted when the applicant applies, but not if the place is cancelled by the applicant.

It's understood that a number of parents complained to the Department of Education, and that the Department then contacted the school and the Board of Management about the matter, and the fee was then dropped.

Wicklow Times contacted St. David's but they declined to comment.

RURAL BROADBAND LAUNCHED

Continued from Page 1

"It will open up a range of possibilities including: flexible and remote working; smart health with online GP and nursing services and medical monitoring; cloud-based services and connected devices; smart farming opportunities; digital learning; and reliable electronic payments and bookings for businesses. It is crucial for balanced regional development that everyone in the country does not have to go to Dublin to work, study or start an enterprise.

"Every school in the country will be able to access digital technologies for teaching. That this announcement is taking place in the heart of the uplands in County

Wicklow is symbolic of the scale of the transformative impact that this technology will bring to communities like Laragh, Glendalough with its population of rural dwellers, farmers, commuters, tourism businesses, students and families.

"The delivery of high speed broadband will help to attract new jobs to rural areas, develop new enterprise opportunities and retain the jobs that currently exist in these areas and it is both welcomed and eagerly awaited that this work will commence early in the New Year with the provision of the broadband connection points to be rolled out in 2020 in the 12 locations, which are well dispersed geographically, across

County Wicklow."

Speaking following the broadband launch, Fianna Fail TD Stephen Donnelly accused the Government of failing in the entire broadband process.

He explained, "I think everyone should be worried when the Government starts announcing big capital plans, right in the middle of a by-election. It's pretty easy for anyone to see that it was a nakedly political photo op, cynically staged to help them in the polls. They tell us that the signing of the new contract is supposed to bring an end to delays with the national broadband plan but, so far, it's just led the Irish public down the garden path.

"Here in Wicklow, we've been promised that 12 high-speed internet hubs have been earmarked for the county, including GAA clubs, community Halls in Tinahely, Avondale Forest Park, the Brockagh Resource centre, a Hostel in Enniskerry, a premise at the county campus in Rathnew and Scoil Caoimhin Naofa. We've also been told that 14,000 premises will benefit from highspeed Internet connections thanks to a €59 million cash injection under the plans. But the worst scenario that we could possibly have, is for people's hopes to be built up like this, only to be dashed later.

"The top civil servant at the Department of Public Expenditure previously warned that the Government's broadband plan wasn't good value for money and should be shelved. What we need to know now is what the department thinks about this latest version? The Wicklow announcements may sound like great news on the surface, but we want to be certain they'll be just as good in reality before we start celebrating," concluded Donnelly.



Minister Andrew Doyle, Cllr Avril Cronin, Cllr Shay Cullen and Minister Simon Harris at the signing of the National Broadband Plan in Laragh

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Public Realm Plan for Greystones

The people of Greystones are being invited to have their say on an important plan to improve the public realm in the town.

Wicklow County Council and Greystones 2020 have appointed a team of specialists -headed by The Paul Hogarth Company - to create a plan for the Public Realm in Greystones.

The consultants have been asked in particular to look at the most effective presentation, management and enhancement of areas such as: Approaches and gateways into the town; Public Space network; Parking and traffic; Signage and Wayfinding; History and Heritage; Tourist Destination; Parking, Traffic and Public Transport.

Having held a very successful initial consultation event and engaged with local school students, the team conducted a spatial and technical analysis of Greystones and have now developed an initial Draft Plan for consideration.

The Draft Plan includes a broad range of innovative and bespoke projects to be delivered across the short, medium and longer term that seek to address climatic, demographic and economic change in Greystones.

Once finalised, these will be used as the basis for funding applications.

As the Plan is a work in progress, residents are

strongly encourage to view the draft proposals and help shape the future of Greystones.

The Draft Plan material is available to view online until 3rd December.

"This is your town, this is your plan, and so we want you to be truly involved in it," a spokesperson said.

Although Greystones is a thriving town, it is faced with challenges that need to be tackled, including increased development and traffic congestion.

To help address these problems and to improve the local streets and public spaces of Greystones,

it is vital that a collaborative approach be taken in order to develop a shared vision and deliver the best outcomes for the town.

Fianna Fáil Health spokesperson Stephen Donnelly is urging Greystones residents to check out the new town plans and have their say on the proposals.

He explained, "It's important to remember that Greystones doesn't belong to the local Council or Councillors or planners or politicians of any description. It's owned by the people who live and work in it every day. Regular people who have their homes here, send their children to school here, they visit our local shops, they eat and drink in our restaurants

and pubs and socialise in our clubs and societies. We want to hear the voice of every single person who'll be affected by the changes, because it's their opinion that matters.

"The consultants who've been hired to come up with the plans will be on hand to answer any questions and I've been told they'll be open to feedback on their proposals. The team is trying to improve everything from traffic and transport to parking and playgrounds. They'll be focusing on history, heritage and everything in between - so there should be something of interest to everyone. My advice is to go along, have a look and tell them what you think", concluded Donnelly.



RORY IS OFF TO STRASBOURG

Rory Mulcahy, a 5th Year student from Presentation College in Bray was the winner of Bray Rotary Club's recent Youth Leadership competition, beating off competitors from several other local schools. And last week he was the winner of the regional finals held in Wexford. The judges stressed that the competition was very stiff and it was very close between the students. The Judging Panel consisted of Brendan Howlin TD, Kate Kelly, four-time All Ireland camogie winner with Wexford and nine times Camogie All Star, Natasha Hughes, Co Site Head BNY Mellon Wexford. Rory won a trip to Stormont, the Dáil in Dublin and to participate at Euroscola in the EU Parliament in Strasbourg on February 2nd.

Pictured is Rory with competition judge Natasha Hughes

Vikings to return to Ashford

Ashford Studios will once again be filled with furs, long hair and beards after it was announced last week that a spin-off series to hit show Vikings has been commissioned by Netflix.

Vikings: Valhalla, written by Jeb Stewart and executive produced by Irish producer Morgan O'Sullivan is set 100 years after the original show and will detail the exploits of famous vikings Leif Erikson, Freydis, Harald Hardrada as well as William the Conqueror.

Show creator Michael Hirst said he was delighted to return to Ireland, "and Ashford Studios in

glorious County Wicklow which has been our home for the last eight years. Our Irish crew, in my opinion, is the best and most professional crew in the world. And it has been a particular joy to me, shared with my producer Morgan O'Sullivan, that we have been able to give continous employment to many hundreds of Irish men and women. Ireland is well known for its support of writers and drama

and Vikings has benefited, and will now continue to benefit, from both that cultural and financial support."

Ashford Studios is run by Joe O'Connell and his daughter Shelley. Six seasons of Vikings were shot there between 2012 and 2018. Earlier this year planning permission was granted for a €90m extension, including four new studios and a TV studio.

O'Brien selected for the General Election

Cllr Paul O'Brien from Wicklow Town was officially selected as the Labour Party candidate for the general election at a selection convention held on Thursday, 7th November.

Speaking at the convention Cllr O'Brien promised that he would do his best to live up to the expectations set by the members and would do all he can to ensure that Jack O'Connor's vision of a fairer society becomes a reality, but he added "with a little Wicklow flare thrown in for good measure".

"This is a great honour for me to follow in the footsteps of so many fine Labour representatives that served Wicklow with distinction since the foundation of the State. I have to admit though I got a little choked up

when thanking my family for their continued support as I am the first member of my family to hold elected office and to run for the Dail. My only regret is that my grandparents aren't alive to witness one of their own running, as I know they would have been so proud," O'Brien stated.

"I know the County faces many challenges and if elected to the Dail I will work tirelessly for all the people of County Wicklow. I know first hand what it is like to lose your job and to face the hardships and stigma that this brings, but I made the most of my situation

and thanks to the Labour Party being in government at the time I was able to attend UCD, where I graduated with a Bachelors Art degree in 2016. I want to now use the opportunities that were afforded me to help others, as I know how difficult it can be to bounce back".

O'Brien concluded by thanking his supporters, family and the people of Wicklow for their continued support. He said that he will be ready for whenever the election is called, but in the meantime he will continue to do his best as a County Councillor.



Pictured at the Labour Party Selection Convention are former Labour TD Liz McManus, Cllr Anne Ferris, Cllr Paul O'Brien, Leader of the Labour Party Brendan Howlin, former Labour MEP candidate Sheila Nunan, and Labour Party Chairman Jack O'Connor.

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Wicklow's building boom as thousands of houses planned

Wicklow could be about to experience a housing building boom, with a number of large housing developments around the county recently getting the green light or currently awaiting approval.

Many of the proposed developments are strategic housing schemes, which allows for applications for housing developments of more than 100 residential units to be made directly to An Bord Pleanála. This new type of application has been introduced as part of Rebuilding Ireland to speed up the planning application process and accelerate delivery of larger housing and student accommodation proposals.

Over two thousand homes are to be built as part of the Woodbrook development just outside of Bray. Planning permission is being sought for 685 homes at the Woodbrook site, which is situated between Bray and Shankill. Aeval Unlimited Company have submitted fresh

plans to An Bord Pleanála for the development, which would comprise of 207 houses, 478 apartments, and a crèche. ABP is due to decide the case by 5th March, 2020.

The homes are to be built on a privately-owned piece of land while Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Council will seek permission for 605 homes on the section of the site, which it owns. Two years ago, it was announced that the developer plans to seek permission for a further 717 housing units. The homes are to be part of a larger development that will include shops and cafes, and Dart station. The council-built properties will be social and affordable housing, as will ten percent of the developer-built properties.

Meanwhile, planning permission has been granted for 208 residential units at the Southern Cross Lands in Bray. The mixed-use development is a strategic housing development comprising 30 houses, 18 duplex units, 160 apartments, crèche and associated site works. The site is bounded to the south by the Southern Cross Road (R768), to the west by Ard na Greine Road with Heatherwood residential estate further to the west, to the north by Mountain View Drive residential estate, and to the east by vacant lands.

An Bord Pleanála granted permission, stating that the development shall be carried out on a phased basis to ensure the timely provision of services, for the benefit of the occupants of the

proposed dwellings.

Elsewhere in Bray, construction is underway at the site of the old cash and carry opposite the DART station, where 72 apartments are being built, along with ground retail units.

In March, Capami Ltd lodged an application with An Bord Pleanála for a proposed Strategic Housing Development in Enniskerry for 218 residential units. The development would be located on Killgarrong Hill, in the Townland of Parknasilloge. The case is due to be decided by 5th December.

In Delgany, Cairn Homes Properties Ltd are seeking planning permission for a strategic housing development of 426 dwellings (245 houses and 181 apartments) at Farrankelly and

Killincarrig. An Bord Pleanála is due to decide on this case by 20th January.

Also in January, An Bord Pleanála will decide on whether to grant permission for a development of 43 apartments and 28 houses on Church Hill, Season Park, in Newtownmountkennedy. The application was lodged by Knockree Development Ltd.

In Rathnew, earlier this year, An Bord Pleanála granted permission for 271 dwelling units at Tinakilly.

In Ballygannon, Rathdrum, Wicklow County Council has granted permission for a housing development of 74 houses, while an application for 61 houses is currently with the Council and is due to be decided on in January.



Fiona Carey and David Keeling in Bray for the launch of the Harbour Bar's Single Cask Release Powers Whiskey.

Ardmore Studios seeks permission for new studio

Ardmore Studios has applied to Wicklow County Council for planning permission to construct a new film studio building.

An existing administrative building, security building and workshop would be demolished to make way for the new facility, which would comprise a stage area (c2017sqm) and a five-storey support building with support spaces, stores/props, waiting areas, changing areas, hair/make up, production offices/admin, loading areas, plant, and associated ancillary areas.

The total gross floor area of the new film studio building (stage and administrative building) is about 4049 sqm, with undercroft car park replacing existing surface car parking along with additional surface car parking and provision of temporary car parking within Ardmore Studios site.

The plans also include a redesign of the main site entrance and internal road layout, along with new footpaths, cycle parking, control points, security gates and deliveries/layby. The existing pillars at the main entrance would be relocated to the avenue within the Ardmore site. A new security building would also be constructed.

The application is currently at pre-validation stage with Wicklow County council. A decision is due to be made by the Council in January.

Criminal damage to playground on the Murrough

Cllr Paul O'Brien and Cllr Gail Dunne recently teamed up to view the criminal damage done to playground on the Murrough. Having learned of the damage both councillors said that they were appalled that anyone would cause criminal damage to a children's playground.

"On learning of this damage, we felt it important to view the playground with An Garda Síochána to see what we can do to protect this amenity. Unfortunately, there seems to be an acceptance that this type of behaviour is okay, well it is most definitely not," stated Cllr O'Brien

Cllr Dunne added "First they damaged the fencing and while the council were in the process of ordering the new panels, the posts were also damaged. This costs the council a lot of money to repair and possibly to the detriment of other vital projects in the Town, we must do all we can to

secure the area now and to ensure this doesn't happen again."

Both councillors stated that they would always put their political differences aside and work together for the betterment of the communities that elected them.

"I want to work with my fellow councillors in

order to do what is right for our communities. I don't believe in taking cheap shots at the Gardaí, council officials or indeed my fellow councillors just so I can make a quick headline. Cllr Dunne and myself will now work closely with An Garda Síochána to ensure we do our best to combat this unwanted vandalism. We have worked well in the past and I'm confident we will work well in the future," said Cllr O'Brien.

Cllr Dunne agreed with Cllr O'Brien and concluded by saying "It should be all about the people and by working together we can achieve great things for Wicklow. Myself and Cllr O'Brien have worked well in the past together on such things as the Dunbur Road and the flooding in Mount Carmel and I look forward to continuing to work with all the councillors for the betterment of our communities."



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

AIR POLLUTION (MARKETING, SALE, DISTRIBUTION AND BURNING OF SPECIFIED FUELS) REGULATIONS 2012 (AS AMENDED)

Householders, licensed premises owners, retailers, distributors and wholesalers are reminded of their obligations under the above Regulations. Only sealed bags of coal clearly labelled "APPROVED FUEL – contents comply with the Air Pollution Act Regulations" may be sold or burned within the designated Low Smoke Areas (LSA) of Bray, Arklow, Greystones / Delgany, Wicklow Town and Rathnew. You can check if you are located within a LSA using your Eircode and visiting <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Environment/Pollution-Control/Air-Quality/Smokeless-Coal-Ban>

Every year over 1,510 people die prematurely in Ireland due to poor air quality (EEA), the majority asthma sufferers. Currently, 1 in 13 people in Ireland suffer from asthma (Asthma Society of Ireland 2019). Improved air quality saves and improves quality of lives.



Garda James Dowley with Labour Councillor Paul O'Brien and Fianna Fail Councillor Gail Dunne.

Burnaby Residents Association appeal against preschool development

The Burnaby Residents Association in Greystones has submitted an appeal to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) following Wicklow County Council's decision to grant planning permission for a preschool in the area.

In October the Council granted permission for a new Montessori Early Learning facility at Inniskeen, Killincarrick Road, Greystones, for up to 15 children. Funding was provided to establish the new facility on behalf of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. The development has received the support of Social Democrats councillor Jennifer Whitmore and Fianna Fail TD Stephen Donnelly.

A needs analysis was carried out which demonstrated the need for an early years childcare facility, with significant residential growth in the Greystones Municipal District in recent years resulting in long waiting lists for montessori and early learning facilities. Census 2016 revealed there to be almost 650 children aged under 2

years in the Municipal District and seven out of the nine early learning centres in the Municipal District have waiting lists.

The residents association says however that although there may be the need for an additional early learning facility in the Municipal District, that this doesn't mean that 'an historic domestic dwelling in an already constrained exclusively residential site should be the only location where the applicant can provide that service'.

The application proposes to incorporate the ancillary functions of the Early Learning Pre-School within the main dwelling, and the proposed development would be run by the homeowner and not an independent commercial enterprise.

The application's cover letter states that the

proposals have been careful to ensure that buildings which form part of the Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) will be protected. It states that the demolition of the existing shed will not alter the character of the dwelling as it does not form part of the original dwelling.

The development would consist of the demolition of a shed attached to the dwelling, creating new doors to the rear of the existing dwelling and the construction of a single storey early learning preschool which is ancillary to the main dwelling, accessed via the existing driveway, and the widening of the existing driveway.

The Residents Association believes that the development would not be in the interests of proper planning and sus-

tainable development of the area. They maintain that the development, located in the heart of a residential area, introduces a 'significant' commercial use into a 'constrained' residential property. They believe that the amenities of surrounding residencies will be negatively impacted by 'an undesirable intensity of development', and they also have concerns about increased traffic on a road that they say already has a lot of traffic at key hours.

The residents association also says that the application lacks 'expert evidence' that the development would not detract from the character of the ACA.

The case is due to be decided by An Bord Pleanála in March 2020.



BIFE Principal Ray Tedders, Laura Howes, and Gabriel Allen at the BIFE Graduation ceremony

351 patients waiting for psychology appointment

There were 351 patients waiting for a psychology appointment in Wicklow in August, figures released to Fianna Fail through a Parliamentary Question reveal.

Of these, 129 had been on the waiting list for over 26 weeks, including 14 waiting for over 52 weeks. In the Community Healthcare East (CHO5) area, which includes Wicklow, Dun Laoghaire and Dublin South East, there were 842 waiting for a psychology appointment, while in the Kildare/West Wicklow area there were 274 on the waiting list.

Just 55 out of the 114 assistant psychologist posts pledged by the Government in 2017 are currently in place. Fianna Fail's Health Spokesperson Stephen Donnelly explained that "In 2017 the government pledged 114 Assistant Psychologists for Primary Care services, working under the direct supervision of a suitably qualified Psychologist, would deliver rapid access low intensity psychological interventions for those under 18 years of age, support services and enhance the service provision and research capacity of qualified Psychologists."

"Over two years later and more than half of the positions are vacant. Over the same period we have also seen increasing waiting lists and waiting times for primary care psychology appointments. By August of this year in Wicklow and Kildare there were 625 people waiting to see a psychologist. The vast majority of those waiting are vulnerable young people aged under 18. It's simply unacceptable that so many should wait so long. Vulnerable children and teenagers need this service and we have an obligation to provide it. The government needs to act to provide the 114 assistant psychologists promised," concluded Deputy Donnelly.

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Ellie Willoughby, Graham Finnerty, Erin Hogan, and Jennifer Byrne are pictured at the launch of Carnew Musical Society's production of Oklahoma!, which can be seen in St. Bridgit's Hall, Carnew, this week from Monday November 25th to Saturday November 30th.

Petition to improve 133 bus service gains over 1,000 signatures

A petition created by Independent councillor Mary Kavanagh to improve the 133 bus service surpassed 1,000 signatures.

Cllr Kavanagh has forwarded the petition of 1,067 signatures to the complaints department at Bus Éireann, the National Transport Authority, and Minister for Transport Shane Ross.

Cllr Kavanagh said that she created the petition after hearing of a young woman who was 'left stranded by two consecutive 133 buses that were 'no shows', after a long day's work, and whose parents had to drive to Dublin to collect her.

The 133 route runs from Dublin Airport to Wicklow Town, through Bray, Kilpedder, Newtown, Ashford, and

Rathnew.

Cllr Kavanagh says "The 133 bus route between Wicklow and Dublin is a very unreliable service which regularly leaves workers and students stranded and having to find alternative transport to their work or college. There is often no notice when a bus is going to be late or a 'no show'.

"More investment is needed in upgrading the bus fleet and an early warning system should be introduced when a bus has a breakdown - such as an app, or real-time notice on Bus Éireann's website. Commuters

deserve a better and more reliable service than this."

Regular users of the 133 service have complained about being left stranded, with delays of 30 minutes or more. Earlier this year, the publication of customer complaints by the NTA revealed that the 133 was the most complained about service in the country, with 899 complaints per 100,000 passengers in 2018.

John Brady TD recently received assurances from the National Transport Authority that they would make improvements to the 133 Bus Éireann route. They also informed

the Deputy that the 133 route will remain within the Direct Award Contract between the NTA and Bus Éireann until 2021 at which stage the services 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," he said.

TDs need to commit to advancing the shelved N81 Upgrade Scheme'

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has said that unless all five Wicklow TDs are pushing for the N81 Upgrade Scheme to be progressed, it simply won't happen. He made his comments following a special sitting of the Baltinglass Municipal District on Friday 15th November.

Speaking after the special meeting was held to discuss the N81 and to try and get the shelved scheme progressed Deputy Brady said "Transport Infrastructure Ireland have said that the N81 scheme will not be progressed before 2027 at the earliest. This is because the Government has not included the 31km upgrade between Tallaght and Hollywood Cross in the National Development Plan 2018-2027. A special meeting of the Baltinglass Municipal District was held on Friday to discuss the issue, all five Wicklow TDs were invited, however only two showed up.

"The N81 is one of the most dangerous roads in the State and the shelving of the upgrade scheme is not only having a negative impact on road safety, it is also having an impact on the economic development of West Wicklow. The government made a political decision not to include the scheme in the National Development Plan. Unless there is political pressure on the government to progress the scheme, it simply won't happen.

"The political pressure needs to come from the public representatives in Wicklow. I welcome the fact that the councillors in West Wicklow held the special meeting to discuss the N81 last Friday. There are two Government Ministers in Wicklow, they sit at the Cabinet Table and should be pushing the need to progress the project.

"Last year I presented Minister Ross with a petition containing thousands of signatures demanding that the critical upgrade scheme be progressed, I also arranged for him to visit West Wicklow to meet with public representatives and look at the dangerous condition of the road. The Minister hadn't even the courtesy to acknowledge receipt of the petition. Now when I raise the issue of the N81, the Minister completely passes the buck on it."

Deputy Brady concluded "All five of Wicklow TDs need to put on the county colours and work together to try progress it. We can't wait until 2027 for this project to be looked at or even considered.

"The major safety issues can't wait that long. The development of West Wicklow is also being strangled by the failure to progress the scheme.

"I am now calling on Wicklow Ministers Simon Harris and Andrew Doyle to intervene with their Government colleague and ensure the project is progressed without delay," concluded Deputy Brady.

Council Housing Retrofit Scheme excludes windows and doors

Cllr Mags Crean (Ind) is concerned about a lack of joined up thinking on climate change action as it transpires that Wicklow County Council will not be using a central funding programme to address the retrofitting of windows and doors in social housing stock.

Referring to this funding, Cllr Crean explains that "The retrofitting of social housing offers a real and practical way of addressing energy poverty and challenging climate change, yet the funding made available through the programme for energy retrofitting council houses is not being used for windows and doors.

"It is unacceptable that some of my constituents who are living in council housing have single glazed windows and doors in very poor condition, including wooden and aluminium

frames. These poor conditions are contributing to damp and condensation and ultimately they render the house entirely energy inefficient."

Cllr Crean, having contacted Wicklow County Council about the funding allocation of €609,223 with regard to retrofitting social housing is now deeply concerned with the limitations of this funding scheme.

"The council advised that the focus was on fabric upgrades and not windows and doors. They stated that there is no separate funding for

window and door replacements and that these could only be done as part of the fabric upgrade scheme or when a property is re-let. They added that they hope to eventually start tackling houses like the ones I mentioned but that this would be subject to funding."

Cllr Crean says that the limits of this funding scheme shows a lack of communication between the Department of Housing and the Department responsible for action on climate change. "For me, there are very practical actions

that can be done now to tackle climate change that also have a positive impact for the everyday living conditions of ordinary people. It's not good enough to have a funding scheme that is not addressing basic needs.

"I have contacted the Department of Housing about this issue as well as the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment in the hope that this inadequacy can be addressed and funding is prioritised for windows and doors as well as fabric upgrades."

Theresa Kinane honoured at Volunteers in Sport Awards

Theresa Kinane of Greystones & District Athletic Club was honoured at the 'Volunteers in Sport Awards', hosted by the Federation of Irish Sport in partnership with EBS, today in Farmleigh House Dublin.

Theresa received the Wicklow sports volunteer of the year award for her commitment to Greystones Athletics Club. The award was presented by Minister of State for Tourism and Sport, Brendan Griffin TD.

Theresa has been a stalwart of athletics in Co. Wicklow, in Leinster and nationally for over 22 years. In January 1997, together with a band of helpers, she established Greystones & District A.C. Since then, she has been Hon. Secretary and Competitions Secretary of the club, amongst other coaching roles. Theresa has been described as someone who has gone above and beyond for athletics at every level from local to national.

The Volunteers in Sport Awards were created to recognise the contributions, commitment and dedication of the 450,000 volunteers who give their time to Irish sport each year. This equates to approximately 37.3 million hours of volunteering across Ireland's 14,000 registered sports clubs and associations.

A total of 34 awards were presented at the ceremony, including 32 county-level awards, an overall 'outstanding contribution' award and a 'team of volunteers' award. Swim Ireland's Mary Dunne received the outstanding contribution award and Limerick based 'Women on Wheels' received the 'team of volunteers' award.

Commenting at the awards, Mary O'Connor, CEO of the Federation of Irish Sport, said "Sport matters. It contributes to our health, binds us together as a community and supports the economy, while bringing a sense of pride to us all.

"This would not be possible without the volunteers who share their time and expertise on pitches, tracks, gym floors and swimming pools across the country each and every week. To this end, the Volunteers in Sport Awards is an opportunity to recognise and celebrate these volunteers.

"I would like to extend my congratulations to all our award nominees as we celebrate their contribution to sport across Ireland today."



Theresa Kinane is presented with her award by Roddy Guiney, Chairperson of the Federation of Irish Sport, and Richard Gernon, Regional Manager, EBS, at the Volunteers in Sport Awards.

Society of Irish Foresters Ambassador Programme launched in Rathdrum

Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine, Andrew Doyle T.D., recently launched the Forestry Ambassador Programme in Avondale Community College, Rathdrum, as part of Science Week 2019.

Run by Forestry Careers Ireland, the programme aims to promote forestry as a career option for second level pupils. The Forestry Ambassador Programme is one of the 15 projects funded by DAFM under the Department's 2019 call for proposals for forestry promotion.

Minister Doyle said "I am very pleased to launch this project, aimed at encouraging young people to consider a career in forestry. The focus of Science Week is on climate change and

forestry is an important part of the Government's response under the Climate Action Plan. I know that young people are acutely aware of the climate emergency we face and are more than prepared to play their part in finding solutions."

Forestry Careers Ireland was established to develop initiatives which promote careers in the forest sector and is made up of representatives from the Society of Irish Foresters, Department of

Agriculture Food and the Marine, Coillte, VEON Ltd., Teagasc, UCD, WIT and Ballyhaise College. The programme aims to increase awareness of the important benefits of forestry and of forestry as a career option through a series of presentations to be delivered on a voluntary basis by experienced forestry professionals in schools throughout Ireland.

The programme has

recruited a number of experienced forestry professionals, called 'Forestry Ambassadors' who will make presentations to senior cycle students throughout the country, outlining the benefits of forests, the science behind growing forests and the various career opportunities that the forestry profession offers, drawing from their own careers and experience.



Minister Andrew Doyle with Mary Gahon, Transition Year Co-ordinator at Avondale Community School, Pacelli Breathnach, Forestry Careers Ireland School Ambassador Programme Project Coordinator, and Marie Doyle, Forestry Careers Ireland, with Avondale Community School Transition Year students.

Arklow cyclist joins UC Monaco

Arklow road racing cyclist Liam Curley has recently been snapped up by the professional intercontinental team UC Monaco. He will travel to their training camp later this month to start preparing for what will be a competitive season.

Although only 19 years old Curley will compete at U23 level in competitive cycling races across Belgium, France and Spain next season. His main goal for the 2020 season is get as much experience and exposure so that he can advance his career to the highest level.

At an early age Liam was introduced to cycling by his dad Tom, taking part in a number of sportives sponsored by An Post. Later with a little encouragement from his mother he joined the South East Road Club based in Arklow. Under the guidance of coach Michael Considine, he learned that cycling was not all about cycling fast, it also involved mental strength, positional awareness, tactics and mind games.

As Curley progressed he started to show great potential as an all round cyclist claiming the top spot on podiums across the country in many of the juvenile races that he entered. Liam is a shy and unassuming young man off the bike, however once he sits on the saddle he morphs into an aggressive, determined and clever racing machine, qualities that were quickly spotted by coach's at national level.

In 2016 Curley was called onto Team Ireland's Junior team, competing in many high profile races in Ireland and across Europe where his performances and results where starting to gain respect from other riders and teams, it was also an opportunity for Liam to rub shoulders with many of the top professional riders.

In 2018 Liam was signed up by the Nicolas Roche Performance Team (NRPT), where he continued to impress with his determination and cycling skills. The years of competing and training solo in all types of weather is paying off for this up and coming cycling star, South East Road Club would like to wish Liam the very best of luck with his new team and for the coming years.



Arklow cyclist Liam Curley



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Christmas in Tinahely & Aughrim

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• If you are interested in taking a stall, please contact Christian van Bussel on 086 8597267 or email vanbussel.c@gmail.com for more details.

• The Aughrim Christmas Tree lights will be switched on on November 30th, and Santa will be in attendance. The Michael Dwyer Pipe Band are holding their annual Christmas raffle on Saturday 30th November, after the lighting of the Christmas Tree.

• Tinahely's Christmas Fair continues on Sunday, December 1st (1pm-5pm) and Sunday December 8th (12pm-4pm). They will be held in O'Connors of Tinahely's Marquee. To find out if there are still any stall places available, please email details of product range along with photos to oconnorssoftinahely@hotmail.com. The entry fee for stalls this year is €10, and all proceeds will go to Tinahely First Responders and Tinahely Community Sports Hall. The lights will be switched on on Sunday 8th December at 4pm

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Great pubs and restaurants offer somewhere to stop and grab a cuppa or maybe even a meal while shopping. There are also hair and beauty salons where you can give yourself a treat or perhaps pick up a voucher for somebody else. Pharmacies are always useful for picking up gifts as well as more practical purposes. There are smaller boutique style stores too and all in the beautiful setting of Kilcoole.

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Christmas in Newtown Newtown to be lit up this weekend

The Newtown Lights will be switched on at the Parkview Hotel on Sunday 1st December at 4pm. It promises to a great fun community event with carols, dancing, mince pies, a visit from Santa, and more.

The village of Newtownmountkennedy offers a huge selection of goods and services to Christmas shoppers in a picturesque village setting. The village has seen huge changes in recent years and an influx of new businesses has seen the area rejuvenated.

Everything locals need for day-to-day living is available but there are also a multitude of ideas for gifts for the festive season. The essentials can be picked up in the local supermarket or newsagents, but for those not in the mood for cooking at home there are several restaurants and award winning cafes as well as pubs serving food and of course Newtown's landmark hotel.

Gift and craft shops can provide unique present ideas while stylish and good quality clothes can be found at local clothes stores or dress designers. A host of other goods and services can be found in the village making it a one-stop shop for festive must haves.



Pictured at the switching on of Newtown's Christmas lights last year were Shauna, Aaron, and Lorcan Murphy



Pictured: At the switching on of Newtown's Christmas lights last year were Becky Harrison and Emily Birchill-Harrison. This year, Newtown's lights will be switched on Sunday 1st December at the Parkview Hotel. There will be carols, mince pies, a visit from Santa and more.

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Pictured is 6 year old Liadh Fitzmaurice with her mum Brenda after she completed her 100th Junior Parkrun in the People's Park in Bray

Bray Primary Health Care Centre nears completion

Minister for Health Simon Harris has welcomed the progress on the Bray Primary Health Centre, which is now nearing completion and should be finished by the end of the year.

Speaking about the progress last week, Minister Harris said "In recent weeks much of the scaffolding surrounding the Primary Health Centre has come down to reveal what will be the delivery of a key service for the community in North Wicklow.

"I have received a number of queries from

residents about when the centre is to open. This state of the art Primary Care Centre should be finished by the end of the year and open by Q2 next year.

"It will include all primary care services under one roof, a GP practice, a pharmacy, cafe, a new home for Bray Old Folks and Meals on Wheels

and a car park.

"Crucially it will also be able to house an X-ray facility which will ensure we can access x-rays in the community without needing to go to hospitals. It is badly needed and I am delighted to have been in a position to deliver this for our community."



Minister Simon Harris

Participating in parkrun has significant physical and mental health benefits

Participating in parkrun has significant benefits for your physical and mental health. Volunteering at parkrun makes you happier and is as good for you as running or walking - that's according to a detailed study among more than 4,000 respondents who take part in the 93 weekly 5k adult parkrun events in Ireland, including Avondale Forest and Russborough.

Those who also volunteer reported an 88% improvement to their happiness, compared to 85% for runners and walkers. Parkrun in partnership with Vhi is the biggest community-led physical activity movement in Ireland. Undertaken by Sheffield Hallam University's Advanced Wellbeing Research Centre (AWRC), the research was commissioned to assess the health and wellbeing benefits of participating in the free, weekly, timed 5k events. The research marks parkrun's seventh anniversary in Ireland, and Vhi's fourth year as presenting partner of parkrun Ireland.

The 93 weekly 5k adult events held in parks around the country are organised entirely by volunteers and 88% of those who both volunteer and run or walk at parkrun reported improvements to their happiness.

90% of those surveyed reported improvements in feeling part of a community and meeting new people due to volunteering at parkrun, while 80% reported improvements in their ability to help people.

Commenting on the research Matt Shields, parkrun Ireland Country Manager said; "The findings of this research validate our assumptions about the wide-ranging physical, emotional and social health benefits of participating in parkrun. Volunteering is an incredibly positive activity in its own right, with the greatest health and wellbeing gains being seen by the thousands of people who volunteer at parkrun. parkrun has grown from strength to strength in Ireland. This month we are celebrating our seventh anniversary and more than 170,000 walkers and runners have participated in parkrun events nationwide, supported by a coalition of partners including Vhi and the Healthy Ireland who are dedicated to supporting the parkrun movement."

Parkrun local communities in organising free, weekly, timed 5k events and 2k junior events every weekend at 117 locations all over Ireland, with more than 9,000 people of all ages and abilities taking part each week. The volunteer-led events are organised every weekend from Bere Island to Ballina to Ballinteer and people have volunteered over 73,000 times in the last 12 months.

Over 170,000 registered participants have run at parkrun Ireland events since it started in Ireland in November 2012. Originally launched in the UK in 2004, parkrun now has more than six million registrants globally and over 300,000 weekly participants.

'Children getting sicker as they wait for healthcare'

Fianna Fáil Spokesperson on Health, Stephen Donnelly has said the fact that over 117,000 children are waiting for healthcare is a national scandal.

Deputy Donnelly received new figures which show that 117,463 of these boys and girls have been waiting for over a year" he said. "These figures are staggering. This is the first time we've had a national snapshot of just how many children in Ireland are waiting for hospital

care and the figures are inhumane. "Many of these young people are in serious pain, many are getting sicker as they wait, many are going to need more serious medical interventions by the time they're finally seen. "Never before has so much money been spent in healthcare and yet never before have this many children waited for healthcare. In no

other country in Europe do they have waiting lists like these, so why do we have to put up with it here?

"What's worse is that this is just one portion of the total number of children waiting. I asked for the number of children waiting for speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, psychology, audiology and more. These figures will begin coming in

shortly from the HSE - and then we'll see just how complete the Government's failure is in one of its most important roles - ensuring the children of Ireland have access to healthcare. "There is no amount of fast talking or press releases can explain this away. This is a total failure by the Government," concluded Deputy Donnelly.

Two Wicklow companies receive Irish Heart Foundation award

Two Co. Wicklow-based companies and workplaces, Cairdeas Clubhouse EVE and Teck Ireland Ltd., were awarded for prioritising their employees' heart health at the Irish Heart Foundation's Happy Heart Healthy Eating and Active@Work Awards in the Gibson Hotel.

Heart disease and stroke are among Ireland's leading causes of death. However, we know that 80% of premature heart disease and stroke is preventable through a healthy lifestyle. Most adults spend approximately 60% of their waking hours at work, therefore workplaces can play a key part in promoting and offering healthier food choices and physical activity programmes.

The Irish Heart Foundation has been supporting healthy workplaces for over 20 years, and through the awards, recognises their efforts for prioritising employees' heart health.

The Healthy Eating Award programme assists staff restaurants in adopting healthier cooking practices and providing healthier food choices with the aim of making the healthier choice the easier choice for employees. There are three levels of achievement; gold, silver and bronze, which are aligned to the Irish Heart Foundation and Department of Health's Healthy Eating Guidelines.

The Active@Work Award aims to get more employees more active on a continuous basis, rather than just organising a once off activity event, and promotes a culture of

physical activity and long-term sustainable programmes.

Presenting the awards alongside Mr Karl Henry, Health and Fitness Expert, Broadcaster and Author, Tim Collins, CEO of the Irish Heart Foundation, said: "The Irish Heart Foundation is delighted to recognise each of these companies for creating a culture of health and wellbeing and positively influencing people's cardiovascular health by providing a long-term sustainable programme that demonstrates commitment to the organisation's most important asset, its employees."

Speaking at the awards

ceremony Sarah McCormack, HSE National Healthy Ireland Lead said: "This annual event is always uplifting and the HSE is delighted to support the Irish Heart Foundation in this great initiative that reaches out to so many work locations across the country. Of course, those here today are receiving recognition awards but there are many other work locations who are working towards achieving a bronze, silver or gold standard. The Healthy Ireland Framework is about creating a movement across the country to improve the health and wellbeing of the population."



Pictured are Karl Henry, health and fitness expert, broadcaster and author; Ronan Mulhern, Cairdeas Clubhouse EVE, Co Wicklow, who achieved the Gold Active@Work Award; and Tim Collins, CEO, Irish Heart Foundation.

Enniskerry attraction awarded top global honour

Enniskerry's Cool Planet Experience has been awarded a 'TEA Thea Award of Outstanding Achievement' by the Themed Entertainment Association (TEA). The announcement was made by TEA on 19th November 2019.

The TEA Thea Awards celebrate achievement and excellence within the themed entertainment industry and are internationally recognised as one of the most prestigious awards of the global attractions industry - sometimes referred to as the equivalent of an Academy Award in the sector. Recipients are selected each year from hundreds of nominations submitted to the TEA Thea Awards Committee. Previous recipients in the category include Titanic Belfast, the National September 11 Memorial Museum in New York and the Warner Bros. Studio Tour - The Making of Harry Potter in London.

"We are delighted and equally overwhelmed that our project will receive such a prestigious international award. The Cool Planet Experience story began because we were frustrated by the negative, disabling narrative that existed around climate change and we wanted to create something exciting, educational but fun that would inspire our visitors to change their behaviour and become 'agents of change'. This award means experiences

can be fun and educational too," said CEO Vicky Brown upon hearing of the win.

The awards will be formally presented at the 26th Annual TEA Thea Awards Gala, a black-tie event held at Disneyland Resort in Anaheim, California in April 2020.

The world's first climate action visitor centre, Cool Planet Experience invites visitors of all ages to learn what is making our climate change whilst discovering exciting innovations and solutions being devised to help combat the issue.

The timed experience takes visitors on an interactive journey, allowing them to experience the highs and lows of our changing climate through immersion, gaming and competition.

The Creatives Cool Planet Experience was designed and produced by Dublin-based DMW Creative and associates, the team behind attractions including the GPO Witness History museum and the upcoming Irish Racehorse Experience at the Irish National Stud.

"We're extremely proud to have created this experience, and to have had the opportunity to work with Vicky and her team. The objective was to bring home the message that climate change is not "someone else's problem" - we all have a role to play. The Cool Planet Experience inspires visitors young and old to take action by personalising their journey, and then asking them to Pledge to Change. It equips visitors with the knowledge, skills and tools to respond positively towards the greatest challenge facing mankind. We heartily congratulate Cool Planet Experience on its Thea Award!" said Peter Whittaker of DMW Creative.

The attraction is located in Powerscourt House and was officially opened by Sir Richard Branson in January 2018. In addition to the main experience, a varied and engaging programme of workshops runs throughout the year suitable for school-age children right through to corporate groups.

The Cool Planet Experience outreach programme meanwhile includes sustainability consultancy and sustain-

ability training for businesses, plus an active touring programme.

Fianna Fáil Health spokesperson Stephen Donnelly congratulated the Cool Planet Experience, saying "Based in Powerscourt House this is the world's first climate action visitor centre. It not only teaches people about the problems facing our environment, but it also shows them effective solutions."

"The judges from the 'Themed Entertainment Association' were particularly impressed with the centre's 'storytelling' abilities.

"Cool Planet was officially opened by Richard Branson in January last year and has gone from strength to strength ever since. I think the secret to its success is the fact that it offers a unique mix of fun and education.

"The award for outstanding achievement will be formally presented in Disneyland in California, next April. It's real honour to be chosen as former winners include the Titanic museum in Belfast and the Harry Potter studio tour," concluded Deputy Donnelly.



Asia, Tilly, Xena, and Shauna Jordan at the BIFE Graduation ceremony

Pilot free counselling service in Wicklow

Minister for Health Simon Harris has announced the launch of a pilot project offering people in South Wicklow the opportunity to avail of free online counselling at a location of their choice.

Minister Harris said the pilot, which will run for six months, offers people confidential and accessible mental health care in the community.

"There are multiple benefits to this approach. It will help support primary care through the reduction of waiting lists.

"It will remove barriers to gaining care and overcome the stigma attached to accessing such care. This is a pilot project and the aim is to try it in this area to see if it can and should be replicated across the country.

"Initially people will require a GP referral but soon it will be expanded to allow service users book counselling through text."

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Milly Fennell-Doolan, Linda Doolan, and Sam Fennell-Doolan are pictured at the BIFE Graduation Ceremony on Saturday 16th November. There was a great turnout on the day with over 800 people attending. "We are delighted to have so many graduating this year as we celebrate over 30 years of serving the Wicklow, Wexford, Kildare and Greater Dublin area," said Deputy Principal Gabriel Allen.

"In the improving economic climate, having a Level 5/level 6 Certificate, Diploma or Higher National Diploma remains a prerequisite to finding meaningful employment, irrespective of location. These awards are portable and their quality is recognised internationally which gives the graduate every opportunity of success. Graduates also have the opportunity to gain advanced entry onto higher education degree courses and in some instances complete an honours degree with one extra year of study in Higher Education Institutes."

Councillor calls for women's local authority caucus

Green Party Councillor Lourda Scott has called for the formation of a women's local authority caucus.

Councillor Scott said, "Local government is an important avenue for getting practical experience in politics. Ireland's record of elected female representatives at local Government Level is extremely poor with just 24% women elected nationally in 2019. In Wicklow County Council we have 34% women taking their seats, which is slightly above the European average but falls short of having a truly gender balanced Council Chamber. The

challenge now is not only to encourage more women in Wicklow to enter politics but also to support those that are there to remain. I see the aim of a Women's Caucus strengthening links among female councillors nationally, creating a space where their voices can be heard and work together for mutual benefit."

Councillor Scott continued, "I am confident that this network will encourage more women to remain in politics and become stronger leaders

in the process. For female politicians there are particular challenges to working in a predominantly male dominated and male designed system. I believe that by developing a network of support from the ground up, we are taking the critical next step in affecting true change in our political system. We have already seen the benefits of collaborative work through the alliance of women in recent political campaigns and the work of the Women's

Parliamentary Caucus chaired by Green Party TD Catherine Martin. I look forward to the day when Wicklow County Council has at least 50% female representation with women from all backgrounds taking their places in the Council Chamber. This diversity will benefit everyone in the County. By taking positive steps such as developing a Women's Caucus I am hopeful that that this will be sooner rather than later."

Multi sensory room opened at St. Catherine's

Friday 15th November saw the official opening of St. Catherine's Special School's new multi sensory room. The ribbon was cut by Paula McClean and members of The Giving Guild, the room's sponsor.

The multisensory room came to fruition because of the generous donation of €18,000 which was made to St. Catherine's school on behalf of The Giving Guild. The school received no grants for the construction of the room. The room was installed as a direct result of The Giving Guild's generous donation.

"St. Catherine's Special school community are eternally grateful to The Giving Guild and to Paula McClean for nominating us to The Giving Guild as the charities sponsor."

Multisensory rooms are designed to both calm and stimulate the senses in children with special educational needs. They provide relaxation and enjoyment by eliminating distractions through creating sensory input.

The multisensory room will aid students to self-regulate between learning activities. Some

special features in the room include a ball bubble-tube, mirror panel, multi infinity explorer, laser sky projector and fiber optics.

"Here at St. Catherine's Special School, we provide specialist instruction for students between the ages of 4 and 18 years to students in Wicklow with Autism Spectrum Disorder and moderate, severe profound learning abilities.

"Our educational programmes are aimed at developing communication, independence, life skills and social skills where each student is supported to achieve his or her potential. Catherine's special school is a school which educates students from 4 to 18 years with moderate, profound and severe learning abilities."

The school offers a primary Programme, a Junior Cycle Programme (LILP), and a Senior Cycle Programme (Asdan).

'Admissions for new Greystones/Kilcoole school need to be opened urgently'

Fianna Fáil Health spokesperson Stephen Donnelly has called for admissions to the new secondary school for the Greystones/Kilcoole area to be opened urgently.

Deputy Donnelly explained "At this very moment there are hundreds of children in North Wicklow who don't know which secondary school they'll be able to attend next September. Our number one priority must be to ensure that there are enough places to provide a local education for them.

"Offers have just gone out for St David's and Temple Carrig secondary schools, and while some pupils are celebrating their acceptance, many others have been left languishing on waiting lists.

"My office has been inundated with worried parents who're concerned that their children will have nowhere to go next year, or the year after. This is a cruel and totally unnecessary way to treat families. However, there is an easy way to alleviate this stress.

"The Minister for Education could easily allow early admissions for the new secondary school opening in the Greystones/Kilcoole area in September 2020. This simple step would add a huge number of extra secondary school places to our community and

provide reassurance for pupils and parents that supply will meet demand.

"Of course, that's not the only thing the Minister needs to do. He must make sure that a patron is chosen as soon as possible. Parents can't be expected to choose a school for their child before they know who'll run it. Minister McHugh also has to let us know where the new school will be housed. Right now, he's warning that 'interim accommodation' will be provided while a permanent building is erected on site. We want to know exactly where

this accommodation will be and how long it will take before the school moves into its forever home.

"The situation as it stands is very troubling for us all, but remember, the opening date for this new school was brought forward by a full year when we pressured the Department of Education into helping us and I believe we can do that again. As a parent myself, I'll stand by our community and won't rest until every child gets the education they're entitled to," concluded Deputy Donnelly.

Several local schools participating in water theme

An Taisce's Green-Schools programme has teamed up with Irish Water for a seventh year to support schools working to gain a Green Flag under the water theme. The water theme aims to increase awareness of water conservation among primary and secondary school students. In Wicklow 14 schools across the county are currently working on the water theme.

This academic year just over 97,000 students and 8,000 teachers around the country will undertake the Green-Schools water theme in their school. As part of Irish Water's sponsorship of the water theme schools will be invited to attend water workshops, take part in the annual poster competition, apply to be Water Ambassadors and, following their application for the Green Flag, all schools are in with a chance to be named Ireland's Water School of the Year 2020.

This year will see the return of the Green-Schools Irish Water Poster Competition and the Ambassador Programme for secondary school students. The poster competition will focus on this year's UN World Water Day theme and asks students to create posters focused on water and our changing climate. Secondary school students will also be able to enter a group video, a new element to this year's competition.

This year's Ambassador Programme for secondary schools has seen high levels of applicants as secondary school students become more focused on climate action and helping their environment. Training days for successful applicants began in early November and focus on equipping students with as much water-based knowledge as possible alongside communication skills training and a visit to a water treatment plant.

Water Workshops for primary and secondary schools in 22 locations around Ireland have also started for this academic year. These workshops focus on peer to peer learning and the invited students leave with action plans and resources to assist them in undertaking the water theme in their school.

Cathy Baxter, Green-Schools Manager, said "We are delighted to be celebrating the seventh year of our partnership with Irish Water. The support we've received has allowed us to create and develop resources, events and ongoing initiatives to assist schools as best we can with their work on our water theme. The fruits of this can be seen in schools like our award winning schools each year, who have achieved incredibly low water use and a strong school-wide culture of water conservation."

Commenting on the partnership, Damien Kelly, Irish Water added: "Irish Water is delighted to be working with young people in schools throughout Ireland through the Green-Schools programme to encourage new and innovative ideas about water use and water conservation. Through this education, awareness and action based programme we can improve and secure this precious resource that is vital to the environmental, social and economic life of this country for future generations. Let's continue the conversation about conservation."



Yaiza McGuirk, Hannah Tuohy, Katie Burke, Rebecca Rapple and Carly Egan at the BIFE Graduation ceremony

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Mary Doran, Jim Byrne, Lorna Doran-McEvoy, and Eamon Doran are pictured at the launch of Carnew Musical Society's production of *Oklahoma!*, which can be seen in St. Bridgit's Hall, Carnew, this week from Monday November 25th to Saturday November 30th.

Kilmac garden designer helps Trócaire launch 'Gifts of Love' range

Award-winning garden designer Diarmuid Gavin has urged people to support Trócaire's Christmas 'Gifts of Love' range for 2019. The Wicklow-based TV broadcaster visited Scoil Aoife Community National School in Dublin's Citywest to assist students as they learned about Trócaire's new gift of 'Terrific Trees'.

The development agency's latest gift will help families and communities plant seeds native to their country in order to help protect trees and land for future generations, aiding soil nutrition and preventing landslides.

Trócaire revealed that generous Wicklow supporters spent over 11,000 on the charity's gift range last year, allowing the development agency to bring support 365 families living in some of the world's poorest countries.

This support provided families in the developing world with clean water, essential tools, livestock and help with education.

Encouraging people to support this year's Christmas Gifts range, Chelsea Flower Show and RDS Gold Award medallist Diarmuid said: "I'm delighted to support Trócaire's 'Gifts of Love'. I think they make a lovely Christmas gift for family and friends, knowing that they will help numerous families who are living in really testing conditions."

The Kilmacanogue resident continued: "Considering my own work, I'm particularly enthused to see that Trócaire have added a gift of trees this year. Trees can do so much to protect and preserve farms and land - they provide nutrients to the soil, which allow crops

to grow, they can prevent landslides during rainy season and they help to reduce flooding.

"Trees are also a vital source of shade for crops, they retain moisture to help prevent droughts during the dry season and their leaves provide essential fertilizer for the soil.

"The wood from trees can be used for firewood and buildings. Trees allow food to grow, protect crops and allow people to build homes. They are essential for daily life in rural communities around the world," added Diarmuid.

Trócaire's Christmas Gifts campaign has sold more than 945,000 gifts since 2000 and raised 38m for the develop-

ment agency's work supporting families affected by long-term poverty overseas.

Trócaire CEO Caoimhe de Barra said: "We are delighted that Diarmuid has helped us highlight our Gifts and I'd like to thank him and the students of Scoil Aoife for taking the time to support us.

"I'd also once again like to thank all of our generous Wicklow supporters who have bought Trócaire Gifts, which help to provide essential support for some of the world's poorest communities.

"Families across Africa, Asia and Central America will benefit from the new Gift of Trees. About 70% of the world's poorest people live in rural areas and they depend on farms and the land to survive. Trees are a lifeline in rural communities in many countries where we work like Guatemala, Rwanda, Malawi and Myanmar.

Caoimhe added: "Trócaire's other gifts - from small items like soap and chicks to bigger gifts like water support - also help communities in countries such as Kenya, Ethiopia, Honduras and South Sudan."

There are 15 Trócaire gifts to choose from this year, such as chicks, beehives and solar lamps ranging in price from €5 to €1000. New additions for 2019 include the 'Gift of Trees' for 85.

You can buy Trócaire gifts online at www.trocaire.org/gifts, by calling 1850 408 408, from Veritas stores or a Trócaire One4all gift card can be bought at all Post Offices.



Kilmac garden designer Diarmuid Gavin at the launch of Trocaire's 'Gifts of Love' range

Places Seen and Not Seen: An exhibition by Louise Butler

Louise Butler is a visual artist, specialising in landscape. Her methods of investigation take form in multidisciplinary areas, as her practice flows between painting, sculpture and performance. An exhibition of her work can be seen in the Signal Arts Centre in Bray from January 20th 2020 to 2nd February.

Butler is drawn to and intrigued by the natural environment, dramatic scenery of majestic landscape, mountains, islands and the surrounding elements, both at home and abroad. During her travels her search for what she considers 'ideal locations for the adventure tourist,' these are the places with monumental views of natural beauty in all its harshness and wonderment.

As such, she is a tourist who strives for a unique landscape. For many of us, the relationship we have with nature is ambivalent. It is present in our everyday life, even in vast quantities in some countries, and it seems our access to nature is boundless. Her work is about the view of nature

from within society. Butler anticipates points of conflict in the landscape related to commercialisation. Nature as commodity is transformed into a spectacle to admire from very close. The idyllic land has now

been framed for us. Landscape is the object to be consumed.

Butler is currently living and working in Dublin, and recently graduated from KHiB in Norway with an MFA in 2017. From which she



was awarded BHK Kunststudentsstipend Award and Kulturrådet Award from the Arts Council of Norway. She received her BA from NCAD in 2006 and has been showing regularly in and around Ireland since 2004 and Norway since 2015. Solo shows include Finders of Islands in Ballina Arts Centre, Co Mayo and Journey to Nimbus in Talbot Gallery, Dublin. Her artwork is represented in the permanent collection of the OPW, in private collections throughout Europe and Canada. She also is director and curator of the most remote art gallery in Norway, situated on top of the mountain, Galleri Kronborg.

Louise Butler's artwork, awards and resume can be found on her website at www.louisebutler.com. She can also be reached at louisebutler00@gmail.com.

ScreenDance Laboratory in Bray

Wicklow ScreenDance Laboratory is a two day festival of dance and dance-on-film taking place in Bray on December 2nd-3rd. It promises a veritable feast for the senses for anyone with an interest in dance and screen-dance (dance on film).

Now in its third year, the event happens in both Mermaid Arts Centre and Perfect Theatre Studios at Bray Bowl.

Curated by Dr Adrienne Brown, invited guests for 2019 include revered dance practitioners Róisín Whelan, Angie Smalis, Aoife Kavanagh and Co. Wicklow based Karen Gleeson. Wicklow ScreenDance Laboratory 2019 has as its theme: 'Through the Dark of the Night'. As we approach the winter solstice, we enter the darkest and longest night of the cyclical year on November 26th, a time where for two or three nights we have no visible moon. This occurs just before the opening of Wicklow ScreenDance 2019 happening on December 2nd and 3rd.

The festival programme includes events both free and ticketed including a screening of *Le Ballet de la Nuit*. The specially commissioned dance film *Le Ballet de la Nuit* (comprising 12 international filmmakers, 12 composers and 12 hour-long films on themes of the iconic 1653 ballet) will be shown, from 10 am - 4 pm each day.

In partnership with Klinkerdin Experimental Arts Salon, the event will also host an Artists Salon including an evening of dance performance, dance film screening and discussion with special guests on December 2nd.

Featured film/ dance artists Aoife Kavanagh (Ireland), Róisín Whelan (Ireland) and Angie Smalis (Greece/Ireland) will present and discuss dance and film, along with a live dance performance from Steffi Carter. Films by Anna Maria Hutri (Finland), Erika Vaughn Byrne (USA) and Emma Minarelli (Italy) will also be screened.

International Screenings are front and centre once again at this year's festival with a curated selection of dance films from across the world for screening on December 3rd. Video dance performance/screen dance is a particularly eclectic twenty-first century medium that draws artists from multiple disciplines to form moving images that speak of the poetic and political in current times.

Viewers will see films from Karen Gleeson (Ireland); Salvatore Insana (Italy); Steve Woods (Ireland); Erica Borges (Brazil/Ireland); Tara Brandel (Ireland); Angie Smalis (Greece/Ireland); Jessica Peoples (Ireland); Molly McAllister (Ireland); Aoife Kavanagh (Ireland); FuLE (France); Anna Maria Hutri (Finland); Valentina Knezevic (Croatia/Germany); Hadi Moussally (Lebanon/France). For full info, visit www.mermaid-artscentre.ie



Wicklow ScreenDance Laboratory is a two-day festival of dance and dance-on-film taking place in Bray on December 2nd-3rd

Wicklow hurlers attend Rookie Camp

Wicklow hurlers Cian Staunton and Jonathan O'Neill were among over 100 Gaelic Players Association (GPA) and Women's Gaelic Players Association (WGPA) members who descended on the Johnstown Estate in Enfield in County Meath on Saturday November 9th for the second annual GPA Rookie Camp.

The event is aimed at players who have recently made the step up to senior inter-county panels, as a tool to help them balance their playing, study, work and personal lives.

The recent GPA report *A Juggling Act: An Insight Into The Lives of Student Inter-County GAA Players* highlighted how players are struggling to balance their playing and study commitments and recommended the further development of the GPA Rookie Camp and its promotion to young players from squads across the country.

The theme of the day was *Preparing the Person Behind the Player* in recognition of the fact that, while they may be known for their performances on GAA fields the length and breadth of the country, this is not what defines them as people.

Induction programmes, such as the GPA Rookie Camp, are recognised worldwide in elite sport as a fundamental aspect of an athlete's transition from development squad to elite level.

Speakers on the day included Dublin Senior Footballer and Sports Psychologist Kevin McManamon who delivered sessions on Building Resilience; Associate Professor of Sport and Exercise Physiology in the School of Health and Human Performance at Dublin City University Dr. Brendan Egan who concentrated on Nutrition Education; Kieran File who is the Assistant Professor at the University of Warwick and who spoke to Healthy and Harmful Social Media; and Performance Coach Declan O'Connell who took the attendees through

workshops on Personal Development.

Attendees were also provided with practical education and information on their responsibilities around anti-doping which was delivered by Siobhan Leonard from Sport Ireland and Irish Canoeist Jenny Egan.

The day was divided into a mix of group information sessions and smaller interactive workshops where players could discuss common challenges that they face in their burgeoning inter-county careers.

Speaking about the event GPA CEO Paul Flynn said; "I know from my own experience that when I have balance in my life, I am better positioned to perform on the field of play. We want to assist all our members to find this balance. The GPA Rookie Camp is

great opportunity to introduce new members to their association, and provide practical tools and information about how best to maximise their time as an inter-county player on and off the field."

This was the second year of the Rookie Camp with WGPA members attending for the first time.

Chairperson of the WGPA Maria Kinsella said; "We were delighted to join with the footballers and hurlers from the GPA at the Rookie Camp for the first time, in exploring what a modern inter-county lifestyle looks like for our young players. We want our players to reach their full potential while staying healthy, mindful and fulfilled throughout and the Rookie Camp represents a step on that journey."

Success for Wicklow trainer and jockey at Fairyhouse

Philip Rothwell made it two wins in just three days when *Enduring Love* won the 2m5f handicap chase at Fairyhouse on Tuesday, 12th November.

Ridden by Joanna Walton, the 25/1 chance recovered from a mistake at the third last fence to beat the Padraig Roche-trained 11/8 favourite by a neck in a driving finish. It was another winner for owner John Lecky who has been patient with the seven-year-old. Rothwell said, "He had no luck over the last year, but we've minded him because he wants soft ground. We've waited a year-and-a-half with him. He's a relatively young horse and hopefully he can go on from there."

Meanwhile, Adam Short rode two winners during the week. At Fairyhouse on the same day the Newtownmountkennedy jockey rode his first winner as a 3lbs claimer when teaming up with county

Meath trainer Matthew Smith to win the beginners' chase with Ronald Pump.

Owned by the Laois Limerick Syndicate, the 10/1 chance was in front between the final two fences and pulled clear on the flat to score by all of eight lengths from the Dermot McLoughlin-trained Captain CJ.

Short was a winner again at Cork on Sunday 17th November where he partnered the Brian McMahon-trained Powersbomb to land the 2m handicap chase. The nine-year-old gave trainer Brian McMahon his first winner back in 2014 and recorded his second win over fences when beating the James Dullea-trained *Just Get Cracking* by a length.



Enduring Love and Joanna Walton wins the Ladies Supporting Susan Handicap Chase at Fairyhouse for Philip Rothwell. Photo: Patrick McCann/Racing Post



Breda Cunningham and Eileen Patterson are pictured at the launch of the National Broadband Plan in Laragh

Star bargains at Lions charity auction

A luxury break at Harvey's Point multi-award winning hotel in Donegal, lunch at the five star Dublin Intercontinental Hotel, Tapas at The Market Bar, artworks by Yvonne Doyle and Irene Milner and exclusive hand-knit dolls by Angela McGealy are among the hundred or so items which will go under the hammer at the Bray Lions Club Annual Charity Auction which takes place at O'Sullivan's Bar, Castle Street, Bray on Friday 6th December from 8pm.

This annual event presents an ideal opportunity to pick up Christmas gifts and a wide range of items at bargain prices. Original artwork, crafts, hampers, vouchers and novelty items will all be on the list with some items likely to be sold for

around €5. Lions Club president Danny Bohan, who will be auctioneer for the event, guarantees an evening of mirth, good cheer and even some excitement. All funds raised will be used by Bray Lions Club

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Marion, Conor and David Brennan at the BIFE Graduation ceremony

Christmas carols by candlelight in the Monastic City

This event is a great way to start Christmas, as it takes place in one of the most evocative settings in Wicklow. On Thursday 19th December at 7:30pm this unique event will be held in Glendalough to celebrate Christmas.

“Beginning with a candlelit procession through the monastic gates we will proceed to the ruins of the candlelit Cathedral for an evening of traditional carol singing in the monastic style. Some of our most familiar carols would have been sung here by the monks of Glendalough themselves in the 8th and 9th centuries. Tea and Coffee will be provided afterwards in the Glendalough Hotel courtesy of Pat Casey TD. This a free event and open to everyone, including children, who must be accompanied by an adult. Assemble in the Glendalough Hotel car park at 7.15pm. Wrap up warm and bring your own lantern/torch and singing voice.”

Two Wicklow companies finalists in the SFA National Small Business Awards

The finalists in the SFA National Small Business Awards 2020 have been officially announced by Sue O'Neill, SFA Chair and Chair of the SFA Awards Judging Panel and they include two Wicklow companies.

The aim of the awards is to celebrate the achievements of small business in Ireland, and to recognise the vital contribution of the small business sector to Irish industry. “The response to the awards programme serves as a reminder that Irish small companies are resilient, putting their best foot forward and seeking recognition for their efforts” commented Sue O'Neill.

“As well as our eight award categories, we also feature five of the best Emerging New Businesses (less than two years established) and, given the quality of the business-

es represented this year, entrepreneurship is alive and well in Ireland.”

Food at Fishers, Newtownmountkennedy is a finalist in the Food & Drink category sponsored by Bord Bia, and with Interactions in Kilcoole a finalist in the Workplace Wellbeing category, sponsored by DeCare Dental.

The gala prize giving ceremony will take place in the RDS on March 12th, 2020 when the category winners and overall winner will be announced.

Latest Renault Clio continues link with South East

Wicklow and Wexford have had a ‘special relationship’ with Renault, ever since the French national car firm set up an assembly plant on the quays in Wexford town and established a local supply chain, mainly in Wicklow, Wexford and Waterford, in 1964.

After assembly of the iconic Renault 12 ceased in 1984, the factory became a component supplier to Renault plants in France. Renamed Wexford Electronics, and led by the dynamic Liam Bailey, it employed 400 people making Wiring looms and other components while former local suppliers such as Automatic Plastics in Tinahely, expanded their horizons and made rear view mirrors for Renault’s many European factories.

Over 55,000 Clio’s have been sold here since the first model arrived in 1990 just two years after

By Martin McCarthy

P&H Doyle’s of Gorey set up their Renault dealership. The outgoing Clio 4 was the bestselling Clio generation, with 12,000 units on Irish roads. While there is now a move to SUVs and the new Captur coming in 2020, the latest Clio can be expected to sell well - thanks to styling, luxury interior, a frugal but powerful 100bhp petrol engine and attractive pricing - starting at €16,990. There is also a €3,500 Renault Carbon Credits programs for buyers opting for either the petrol or diesel model



The new Renault Clio in the Wicklow hills

as these are both beating the 100g CO2/ Km. mark.

While the base model includes Aircon and electric windows - the majority of Wicklow buyers are likely to opt for the Dynamique version which comes with Multimedia big Screen, Android Auto and Apple Carplay, 16 inch alloy look wheels and other extras for an additional €1,700.

All Clios have a 4G SIM in the car, so Renault HQ is alerted if an airbag is deployed, or the drivers hits the panic

button. This can be a life saver if one goes off the road in the remote Sally Gap or further afield. There are Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) which includes traffic sign recognition, monitoring for pedestrians and cyclists using both cameras and radar, and other aids to safe driving in our unique mix of roads and environments. The new Clio comes with a five-years/200,000km Manufacturers Warranty, that will give the owner security levels that will be hard to beat.

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Female entrepreneurs sought for business development programme

The call is open now for ambitious female entrepreneurs from Wicklow who are looking to scale their businesses to join the latest cycle of Going for Growth, the award-winning business development programme.

Going for Growth is a six-month part-time programme, supported by Enterprise Ireland and KPMG, which assists ambitious female entrepreneurs to achieve their growth aspirations.

The programme, which is now in its 12th year, is seeking applications from female entrepreneurs - across all sectors - who are strongly focussed on growth. Ideally, businesses should be well established and trading for at least two years.

Sixty places will be available for this 12th cycle of Going for Growth, which will run from January to June 2020 and the deadline for applications is Monday, December 9th. There is

no charge for those selected. Anyone interested is encouraged to register their interest in receiving an application form at goingforgrowth.com.

Past participants from Wicklow include Geraldine Langan of LanganBach Services, which distributes diagnostic kits and laboratory equipment to healthcare professionals, and Alison Stroh of Dr Coy's, which produces a collection of healthy snacks.

Geraldine and Alison urge anyone interested to apply for Going for Growth.

Most owner/managers agree that growing a business can be a very isolating experience and it can be difficult to find some-

one on your wavelength who understands the issues involved. The Going for Growth initiative is designed to address these challenges and those selected will join interactive round table sessions led by Lead Entrepreneurs.

The Lead Entrepreneurs are successful business women with personal experience of growing a business. These high-profile business leaders volunteer their time to encourage participants to set and achieve personalised goals and milestones to address the opportunities and challenges they face in driving growth in their businesses.

Julie Sinnamon, CEO Enterprise Ireland, said: "Supporting ambitious business women to start

and to grow enterprises is a priority for Enterprise Ireland. In addition to targeting a continued increase in the number of high potential start-ups led by female founders, a key focus for Enterprise Ireland is to increase the number of companies that achieve scale.

"The Going for Growth programme provides unique supports to ambitious business women in the achievement of their growth aspirations through learning, collaboration and most importantly, through role models and mentoring. This is the 12th year of Going for Growth and more than 660 female entrepreneurs have so far taken part in the programme. Check out www.goingforgrowth.com for more details.



Ciaran O'Keefe, Claire O'Toole, Cora Tyrell, and Richard O'Toole are pictured at the launch of Carnew Musical Society's production of Oklahoma!, which can be seen in St. Bridgit's Hall, Carnew, this week from Monday November 25th to Saturday November 30th.

PLANNING • PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

T. & C. Horan seek permission for relocation of vehicular entrance from R761 to The Grove, improvement of sight lines and new pavement on corner of R761 / The Grove, new mains foul system to replace existing off-site septic tank and erection of 4 new terraced dwellings at Bridge House, The Grove, Greystones. 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

DC Design (0402 94680) seeks full Planning Permission on behalf of Eugene O'Brien & Martin Byrne for the erection of 13 no dwellings consisting of 1. Block A which consist of 2 no three bedroom and 3no two bedroom dwellings. 2. Block B which consists of 2no three bedroom dwellings and 3no two bedroom dwellings. 3. Block C which consists of 2 no three bedroom dwellings and 1no two bedroom dwelling. 4. Provision of estate roadway along with associated services and connections to same. 4. provision of public open space. 5. Improvements to existing entrance and provision of additional entrances and associated works at Chapel Lane, Aughrim Lower, 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

Alphaplant Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplantdesign.com) Seeks planning permission for a dwelling, waste water treatment system to EPA standards, garage, access driveway and associated works at Seaview, Kilpedder, Co. Wicklow for Z. Kelly. The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

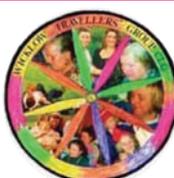
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

The Estate of Eileen Layless seeks planning permission for the upgrade of the existing septic tank system to a new effluent disposal system to current EPA standards, together with all associated site development works at Dan's Place, Ballyduff Upper, Ashford, Co Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

RECRUITMENT

Drug Prevention and Education Family Support Worker required

(21 hours per week)



Wicklow Travellers Group is a community development organisation of Travellers and settled people working together to promote human rights for Travellers and create a society in which we are different, equal, confident and valued.

The successful candidate will:

- Hold a minimum of a QQI Level 7 qualification in a health science, social care, youth work, addiction or related subject
- Experience of working with socio-economic disadvantage, marginalisation and/or exclusion in society
- Proven knowledge and skills in funding applications, planning, delivery, evaluation and reporting of key strategic initiatives
- Have knowledge and/or experience of drug related work within a community setting along with education and prevention strategies
- Have a high level of communication, relationship-building and interpersonal skills
- Have a clear understanding of Traveller issues and the cultural identity of this community

Application process:

Please send covering letter and application to coordinator@wicklowtravellersgroup.ie

Application forms available through www.activelink.ie/content/vacancies/community/48304
Application closing date 5pm on Monday the 2nd of December.

THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

Dear Heart of Jesus in the past I have asked for many favours. This time I ask you this very special one. (Mention request) Take it, dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your broken Heart where your Father sees it. Then, in his merciful eyes it will become your favour not mine. St Anthony and St Jude, helper of the hopeless, aid me in my distress. Amen.

Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and favour will be granted. Never known to fail.

L.Q.M.; M.M.

PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR A FORESHORE LICENCE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 19 of the Foreshore Act, 1933 that Sure Partners Limited, SSE, Red Oak South, South County Business Park, Leopardstown, Dublin 18, has applied to the Minister of Housing, Planning and Local Government for a licence under Section 3 of the said Act for site investigations at Arklow Bank Wind Park.

A copy of the application, and the relevant maps, plans, and drawings, are available for inspection for the next 21 working days, free of charge, at Wicklow Garda Station, Batchelor's Walk, Wicklow, Co. Wicklow, A67 HK20 and Arklow Garda Station, Abbey Street, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, Y14 H392.

The documentation is available on the Department's website:

<https://www.housing.gov.ie/planning/foreshore/applications/site-investigations-arklow-bank>

Any person who wishes to make an objection to, or a representation in respect of the grant of the licence sought should do so in writing, giving reasons (quoting ref: FS007049), to the Marine Environment and Foreshore Section, Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, Newtown Road, Wexford, Co. Wexford; or foreshore@housing.gov.ie. The closing date for submissions is 5pm on 3rd January 2020.

All objections and representations received will be forwarded to the applicant for comment prior to any decision being made in the matter. Material upon which the Minister shall determine this application may be published on the Department's website. In this regard the Department wishes to draw attention to its policy on defamatory material that may be contained in submissions it receives, which may be found at: <http://www.housing.gov.ie/planning/foreshore/public-participation-foreshore-consent-process>

Dated this 26th day of November 2019

Name and address:
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