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Tuesday 10th December 2019 5 Eglinton Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow Tel: 01 - 2869111 www.wicklowtimes.net E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie

# RONDO TO CUT AND RUN?

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has slammed Rondo Foods in Arklow for their refusal to engage with the Workplace Relations Commission. He called on the Minister for Business, Enterprise, and Innovation to direct the owners of Rondo Food to engage with the Workplace Relations Commission to help put in place a fair redundancy package. He also asked for an Employment Taskforce to be put in place. This follows the announcement in November by Rondo Foods of 157 potential job losses.

Brady raised the matter in the Dáil last Thursday, and said: "On the 8th November Rondo Foods announced that the 157 Arklow jobs were at serious risk and that they were entering a 30-day consultation process with staff representatives. Unfortunately, it is very apparent that Rondo didn't enter that process in good faith. They have dismissed any cost saving proposals and have ruled out the prospect of the

business being sold as a going concern. In fact, at the same time proposals were being put forward to save the company Rondo had engineers over from Germany in the Arklow plant measuring up machinery to be stripped out and moved to Germany."

"I believe that Rondo never had any desire to stay in Ireland and I think their recent actions back that up. It's apparent that the only reason Rondo

engaged in the 30-day consultation process is because they had to. It was their intention from the outset to cut and run back to Germany.

"During the four meetings that have now taken place between senior management of Rondo and staff representatives there has been a disagreement on the terms of a fair redundancy package. The WRC are the body tasked with dealing with any industrial disputes.



Mia, Emma and Ayia Willis with Jerome O'Brien at the switching on of the Christmas Lights in Newtownmountkennedy

  
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Rondo unfortunately are refusing to engage with the WRC.

"Given that massive amounts of taxpayers' money has been given to Rondo Foods in grant aid through Enterprise Ireland, this is a disgraceful position.

"Minister Heather Humphreys must directly intervene and direct the owners at Rondo Food to engage with the industrial machinery of the State.

"Workers at Rondo Food have been left in a nightmare situation, losing their jobs just before Christmas. At the very least they deserve Rondo Food to come to the table.

"In the Dáil I also called on Minister Humphreys to establish an employment taskforce in Arklow given the fact that the town is an unemployment blackspot and the impact that such

major job losses will have on the town. This needs to happen immediately."

In the past couple of weeks Rondo management has had perspective buyers for the factory in to view the premises including SSE Renewables. However, a spokesperson for SSE told *Wicklow Times* "Over the past 12 months SSE Renewables has been appraising the suitability of a number of sites around Wicklow Port and Arklow Harbour as possible locations for a future onshore service base for Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2.

"While this process of site appraisal in both towns remains ongoing, SSE Renewables can confirm that it is not pursuing any interest in properties or lands associated with Rondo Foods."



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Bella and Jayden Farrell with Hailey O'Reilly at the switching on of the Christmas lights in Arklo. See more on page 13.

# Anam Cara parents support evening

Anam Cara Wicklow, will host a parent support evening in the Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy at 7.20pm on the 16th December.

It's that time of year every bereaved parent dreads. Christmas is everywhere and there are people laughing and celebrating all round. All a bereaved parent wants are their son or daughter back and can't see how people can be happy and joyous when your world has crumbled.

Sadly, over 2,000 fam-

ilies will have lost a child this year and will face many firsts without them, including their first Christmas. Anam Cara are there to support you on your journey.

During the Anam Cara Parent evening mothers and fathers can avail of the support and comfort from other bereaved parents who understand the

intense grief, pain and devastation after the death of a precious child. Anam Cara will provide a safe and comfortable space for you remember your child with other bereaved parents.

One bereaved mum recently commented "It's nice to be in a place where you can understand how others are feeling without too much explanation and they you."

This Event is open to all bereaved parents

regardless the age of your child or circumstances of their death.

Bereaved parents can also visit [www.anam-cara.ie](http://www.anam-cara.ie), where in their own time they can watch short videos with testimonies from bereaved parents and couples who have attended Anam Cara events. The videos, which are just four minutes each, show parents interviewed on topics like A Dad's Grief, Sudden and Traumatic Death, and The Grieving Family.

## EGS fundraises for new sports hall

East Glendalough School has started a GoFundMe campaign for a new sports hall. Planning permission for the hall was secured earlier this year and the school is trying to raise €100,000 to complete the works by June 2020.

The school has already raised €30,000 and is hoping to raise a further €70,000 through a 'Buy a Brick' campaign and other fundraising activities.

The school says that "The names of all those who buy a brick will be placed on the EGS Sports Hall Wall of Honour." There are 4 Buy a Brick options; €100 Brick - 1 Name on Wall of Honour; €250 - Cornerstone - Up to 3 names on Wall of Honour; €500 - Foundation Stone; €1,000 - Lintel. See [gofundme.com/t/EGSSportshall](http://gofundme.com/t/EGSSportshall) to donate.

## Hot Spot Christmas Cabaret

Serpentine Rooms presents : How the Serpentine Rooms stole Xmas! This Christmas Cabaret and variety show features music, dance, burlesque, magic, comedy and sideshow all under one roof!

This event in The Hot Spot in Greystones is hosted by Ms Kitty LeRoux and showcases the best in local talent as well as performers from across the county.

Get your glad rags on because there will be a best dressed competition as well as a raffle in aid of Greystones kitty hostel with some fabulous prizes. You're going to wish the Serpentine Rooms stole Christmas.

Saturday December 14th. Doors open 8pm / Show 9pm €12 - €15.

## Aughrim Active Retirement

Aughrim Active Retirement's Christmas lunch is on Friday, 13th December in Hunter's Hotel. Cost is €35. Bus and entertainment is being subsidised. Wine will be extra on the day. "Our special collection this year is for a local boy who badly needs an assistance dog. As usual we will have our Kris Kindle and some raffle prizes at our party. Our Monday walks are continuing for the winter, meeting at 10.30am with coffee and a chat afterwards. All welcome to come and join us."

## Crinken Lantern Walk

The annual Crinken Community Lantern Walk takes place this Saturday December 14th at 5pm. Meet at Crinken Church (beside Shanganagh Cemetery) and bring your Lanterns! A children's lantern making workshop (must have accompanying adult) will take place beforehand at 4:30pm The plan is to walk around Shanganagh Park and then head back for hot chocolate and snacks! All ages are welcome.

## Carols by Candlelight

Habaemus Choir present 'Gather Together - Carols by Candlelight' at 7.30pm on Sunday December 15th in St. Anne's Church, Shankill. Tickets, €10, available at the door. Proceeds go to the St. Anne's Fund. Mince pies and mulled wine will be served after the concert in St. Anne's Resource Centre.

## Bray Choral Society

Bray Choral Society's Christmas Concert takes place in Christ Church in Bray on Saturday, 14th December. All proceeds from the concert will be donated to Wicklow Homeless Five Loaves. This year the choir are joined by a small orchestral group under the leadership of Alan Smale and conducted by Frank Kelly. The usual fare of traditional carols, Messiah excerpts and Christmas songs will be performed. The concert takes place at 8pm. Tickets: €15 from a choir member or at the door on the night.

## Avoca customer event

Avoca handweavers in Avoca Village are holding a customer event this year in conjunction with Wicklow Hospice on Friday the 13th December from 3-6 pm.



## AN EVENING OF CHRISTMAS CHEER

Leo the Lion and Sean Olohan are pictured at the launch of the Wicklow & District Lions Club's Christmas Concert, which will take place on Saturday December 14th in Tinakilly House, Rathnew. Top of the bill will be the renowned Rathmines & Rathgar Musical Society direct from their very successful stint in the National Concert Hall with the musical Oklahoma. Special guests will be Lorna Breen (Soprano), Ciaran Olohan, Kirsty Mc Dougall, Analiesia Evens and the wonderful children from the MYTh Academy. Musical Director will be Jackie Olohan and compere is the suave Jimmy Dixon. All proceeds on the night will be distributed locally and will benefit many local charities and individuals through the local Lions Club.



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# NO HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

While Minister for Housing Eoghan Murphy narrowly escaped with a vote of 56-53, and Fine Gael decried the motion as a 'stunt', the national conversation nonetheless turned to those who are in need of housing or support at this time of year.

General Election Candidate Cllr. Jennifer Whitmore, whose party the Social Democrats put forward the motion of No Confidence in the Minister, said that it was "disappointing that the motion did not get the support of the Dáil as it is very obvious that the Government's housing policy is not working. It is not meeting the needs of renters, mortgage payers or those vulnerable that have no home to call their own. It is time that this Government is held to account and it was a shame that, instead of doing what's right for our people and communities, Fianna Fail TDs, including Stephen Donnelly and Pat Casey, again decided to sit on the fence and play politics."

At last week's Wicklow County Council meeting, the Chief Executive's report gave an overview of the current homeless situation in Wicklow. In November, there were 83 homeless

presentations, consisting of 100 adults and 43 children. During November 12 families were housed in temporary own door emergency accommodation (24 adults and 26 children) as well as four single adults. 13 families were housed in B&B accommodation (20 adults, 20 children) as well as five single adults.

The Cold Weather Initiative, a partnership arrangement between Wicklow County Council and the Simon Community with assistance from Five Loaves, opened on November 14th, providing emergency accommodation night shelter for homeless individuals. Refurbishment work will take place shortly at the Sonas Facility in Wicklow, which will be operated by the Dublin Simon Community as a Family Homeless Hub.

W.H Five Loaves is a homeless charity in Bray that provides a low threshold day care centre,

hot breakfasts and dinners, information and advice, social inclusion initiatives, one to one support and recreational and educational programmes. They also operate a supported housing unit. You can contact Five Loaves on 01 2040960.

For the estimated 50,000+ homes who will contact the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVP) this winter the words of the popular song "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" are totally at odds with their circumstances. For them Christmas can be the most worrying time of the year.

At the launch by Ryan Tubridy of the SVP Annual Appeal last week Kieran Stafford National President said, "Last year our volunteers visited 50,000 homes in the winter period and with the 2019 calls for help so far running ahead of the 2018 figures we expect that the figure for this year will increase.

"These are people who want to make Christmas as special for their children and families as everyone else but lack the financial resources to meet the additional costs this time brings, and are already struggling to pay for food, heating and rent," he said.

This Christmas, SVP has again put children at the heart of its Annual Appeal and Kieran Stafford said that is because they are the most vulnerable and should not suffer because society has got things so wrong.

"This year we hope to bring a happy Christmas to the many children living in poverty especially the 3,873 without a home and relying on emergency accommodation," he said.

"Of the 150,000 calls SVP will receive for the total year, one in three will be from people without enough food."

The Simon Communities of Ireland



Sgt Paul Daly, Phylis Whyte and Garda James Dowling at the annual Co. Wicklow Older Persons Council seminar in the Glendalough Hotel

also launched their Annual Report last week, showing a 26% increase in people turning to all of their emergency, prevention, sustainment services and housing throughout the country over 12 months to the end of last year.

The Annual Report shows that 16,776 people used Simon Communities services in 2018, including 2,834 families with 5,331 children, up from 13,304 people in 2018.

Wayne Stanley, National Spokesperson for the Simon Communities, said that the new numbers underline the Simon

Community's commitment to moving people and families out of homelessness into secure homes and also respond to people's trauma and addiction by the provision of much needed treatment, recovery and health and well-being services.

"These numbers show that this homelessness crisis is continuing to impact on the lives of many people. The Simon Communities around the country were on the frontline, helping 5,263 people to maintain a permanent home in 2018. Our communities ensure that people are not forgot-

ten or left behind in this homelessness and housing crisis.

"This week's latest homeless figures showed record levels of people forced to access emergency accommodation; we have seen levels of rural and long-term homelessness increasing, along with instances of 'hidden homelessness' and those forced to stay with family or friends. We are all aware that the main driver of homelessness is a critical lack of secure affordable accommodation, and this is something that needs to be addressed by

Government.

"With the lack of affordable and social housing or an accessible private rental sector, the majority of homeless people are now constrained by having nowhere to go.

"Every case is different; what is common to all is that homelessness and housing insecurity is traumatic, stressful and filled with uncertainty. In its work across the country, the Simon Communities see this impact each and every day. It is vital that the current upward trend in homelessness does not become normalised."

## Tenants of new Bray supermarket confirmed

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has welcomed confirmation that SuperValu are to be the tenants of the new supermarket which will be located on the Southern Cross, Bray.

Deputy Brady said that when completed in June next it will bring long overdue services to the area. He further called on Musgrave's to clarify the future of their current store on Castle Street in Little Bray.

Speaking after receiving confirmation that SuperValu are to be the tenants of the new supermarket on the Southern Cross Deputy Brady said "I'm absolutely delighted that after many years of pushing to get services onto the Southern Cross, it has been confirmed to me that SuperValu are going to be the tenants of the new 2,493sqm supermarket."

"Site preparation commenced a number of weeks ago, however the contractor constructing the new store only moved on site this week. It is estimated that the

SuperValu store will be completed by June next." Local Sinn Féin councillor Dermot O'Brien said "This is really good news for the Southern Cross community who have been suffering the absence of local services for far too long. This type of development has been a priority for our party and we are delighted to see the supermarket being delivered along with the inclusion of a neighbourhood centre with small retail, childcare, health and youth & community services included in the second phase. Local community services are a key part of a positive response to climate change as we are removing the need for people to get in their cars and travel distances for basic services. Whilst it's good news about SuperValu opening a new store on the Southern Cross, there are some concerns about the future status of the existing SuperValu store on Castle Street. I have been in contact with the Musgrave Group and I'm asking them to give a commitment to keep the current store in Little Bray open."

## 'Specialist Gardaí needed to tackle surge in sex crimes'

Stephen Donnelly TD has warned that specially trained Gardaí need to be brought into Wicklow to deal with a worrying increase in sex crimes reported in the County this year.

Deputy Donnelly explained, "The latest CSO figures show that 57 sex crimes were reported in the Wicklow Garda Division in the first half of this year. That represents a 23 percent increase on the same period in 2018. While shocking, these numbers are not surprising to those of us who have been carefully tracking crime levels in Wicklow. Wicklow has also lost far too many Gardaí over the last few years, and those we do have, don't have the resources they need. Hardworking dedicated members of the force are being stretched too thin by years of government cuts.

"According to my latest correspondence with the Justice Minister, as of the 31st of October 2019, there were 310 Gardaí assigned to the Wicklow Division supported by 32 Garda staff. As of Friday November 28th a paltry four extra Gardaí were added to the Wicklow force. Their addition means that 11 Gardaí have now been moved from admin duties in Wicklow to operational duties. So what we really need to see now are these extra Gardaí specifically trained to deal with the victims of sex crimes."

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Aisling VanDer Does and Hannah McDonald at the switching on of the Christmas Lights in Newtownmountkennedy

## 'Funding presentation will benefit community reps'

Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District Councillor Steven Matthews has urged representatives of community, voluntary, sporting and residents groups to attend a presentation he has organised that will detail various funding streams and grants available to groups through Wicklow County Council.



Cllr Steven Matthews

Councillor Matthews said, "There is a huge range and variety of funding available that groups don't seem to be aware of. I want to make sure that all groups have the know-how to access this funding. This presentation will also benefit new councillors in assisting their constituents with funding queries."

He continued: "Attendees will hear first-

hand from Wicklow County Council staff who administrate and manage applications for these funds about deadlines, types of projects, application processes and the criteria for qualifying for funding.

"This is a great opportunity to get all the information on available funding and make a successful application."

The Bray Municipal

District meeting will take place at 6.30pm on January 14th at Bray Town Hall.

Attendees should note that as this presentation occurs during a council meeting, standing orders dictate that they will not be able to ask questions during the meeting.

However groups can contact councillors following the meeting with any outstanding queries.

## Local businesses facing disconnection over unpaid water bills

Business customers of Irish Water face disconnection in cases of unpaid bills and overdue debt, the utility has indicated. Irish Water say however that disconnection will be 'a last resort'.

In a statement, Irish Water said "Irish Water is now responsible for billing and collection of outstanding debt from non-domestic customers for water service. As a regulated utility, Irish Water must ensure that our customers are treated fairly and equitably so it is essential that all businesses pay their bills in a timely manner. In common with other utilities, Irish Water has a clear and transparent approach to collecting overdue debt.

"Irish Water is committed to working with customers to ensure that a business account holder's water supply is only disconnected as a measure of last resort, when all other methods of customer engagement have been exhausted. Irish Water is actively contacting customers and visiting premises in a number of counties, including Wicklow, to avoid the need to discontinue supply due to non-payment.

"Irish Water will only disconnect customers if they fail to pay a bill relating to the supply of water and or wastewater services; if it is requested by the account holder; if no registered occupant at the property has been established after attempts to determine occupancy or ownership; or if the customer has entered into a payment plan and that customer fails to honour that plan. A premise will not be disconnected where more than one customer

is connected to the service.

"As a minimum, Irish Water will issue at least one direct disconnection notice in writing at least 5 working days in advance of carrying out a disconnection. No disconnections will be carried out on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday, eve of a Public Holiday or a Public Holiday.

"Customers still have the opportunity to pay on the day of disconnection should they engage. They would need to pay the full outstanding balance by debit or credit card over the phone with the Contact Centre to prevent the disconnection being carried out.

"Where an account holder has had supply disconnected due to outstanding debt and subsequently reached a settlement with us through a payment plan or payment in full, the normal supply will be restored. Irish Water are committed to ensuring the reconnection is carried out within two working days, subject to operational capacity.

"Irish Water is committed to working with customers who are experiencing difficulties in paying their water bills and urge any customers who need to contact us to do so on 1850 778 778 or +353 1 707 2827. More information on methods of payment and support for business customers is available at water.ie."

# Public meeting in Bray on National Maternity Hospital delay

Social Democrats General Election candidate for Wicklow, Cllr Jennifer Whitmore is holding a public meeting, with Dr. Peter Boylan and Roisin Shortall TD as guest speakers, in the Royal Hotel in Bray on Thursday 12th December to discuss the delay in the build of the National Maternity Hospital (NMH) and recent revelations that the hospital is still awaiting Vatican approval before the land can be handed over.

Cllr Whitmore said "It has been 30 months since the Sisters of Charity promised that they would no longer have any involvement in the National Maternity Hospital, and yet, as we head into 2020, there is still no clarity on when the State will own the site on which the new hospital will be built. The Sisters of Charity, who own the site at St Vincent's Hospital, have not yet received permission from the Vatican to change its status to a secular structure.

"The Vatican has never before given per-

mission for a religiously-owned site to be handed over to the State for a maternity hospital, where that hospital that would provide all services, including terminations. So there is no real certainty that permission will be forthcoming.

"Despite this, €43m of public money has already been spent on enabling works at the site. It is unacceptable for the Government to continue to spend public funds on the project until there is legal clarity and certainty that the project will go ahead. It is highly unlikely that the



Cllr Jennifer Whitmore

delivery date of 2024 will be met, but without clarity on legal ownership, it is a huge risk to continue to pour money into something that is still in private hands."

Cllr Whitmore concluded: "Dr. Peter

Boylan and Social Democrats Co-leader Roisin Shortall have been at the forefront of this issue over the last couple of years to ensure that this new facility will be safeguarded for the State and for future generations of women. I am delighted that both these speakers will be at the meeting to discuss the NMH, which will be held in The Royal Hotel, Bray on 12th December at 7.30pm and I would like to invite members of the public to attend and to take part in the discussion."

## Councillors meet Gardai to discuss crime prevention

Councillors Paul O'Brien (Lab) and Shay Cullen (FG) met with Sergeant Paul Daly, the crime prevention officer in An Garda Síochána at County Buildings last Monday to discuss crime prevention and the recent spate of cars being broken into around the Sally Gap.

Cllr Cullen stated that he was taken aback by the recent spate of cars being broken into and urged owners to be more mindful about leaving their possessions out in plain sight for these wannabe thief's.

"Sometimes when visiting the area visitors can get distracted by the beautiful scenery & wander off to take some photos, while forgetting to put their valuables away, which unfortunately can lead to them being stolen", stated Cllr Cullen

Cllr O'Brien said that this meeting was important but that it was only the first step in dealing with this serious issue.

He stated "We need to get the message out there,

that there are people intent on causing criminal damage & we shouldn't be making it easy for them. We all know crime is a major issue whether it's up in the Sally Gap or in our Towns & Villages and we must all work together to combat this threat.

Cllr O'Brien went onto say that both he and Cllr Cullen agree that better signage in the area is a must and if necessary CCTV as well. We understand that the Gardai can't be everywhere at once and they must utilize their resources as best they can. We all know how stretched the Gardai's resources are and if we as Councillors can assist them in preventing crime we will.

Both Councillors confirmed that the next step is to discuss the matter at the Joint Policing Committee next month, of which both are members of and to devise a strategy going forward which will include an awareness campaign.

The councillors concluded by wishing everyone a safe and happy Christmas.



Councillors Shay Cullen and Paul O'Brien with Sergeant Paul Daly (centre), the crime prevention officer in An Garda Síochána. They met last week to discuss crime prevention and the recent spate of cars being broken into around the Sally Gap.

# 'Broken Govt promise pushes St. Joseph's towards closure'

**Management at the specialist dementia care facility St Joseph's Shankill have informed staff and families of people relying on its services that it has been left with no option but to cease residential admissions with immediate effect.**

At last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council, Social Democrats General Election Candidate for Wicklow, Cllr. Jennifer Whitmore put forward and got support for a motion calling for the Council "to write to Minister for Health Simon Harris and ask that he ensure that interim funding is provided to St. Joseph's Dementia care facility in Shankill to prevent any risk of imminent closure."

Saint Joseph's Shankill is home to 60 people living with dementia and provides two respite beds and an additional 120 day-care places per week but has been operating at a 'significant and unsustainable deficit' for over seven years.

Management have informed its 100 staff and families of people who rely on the facility that it had had very positive engagement with the HSE in recent weeks, so much so that it was happy that its day-care services could now be funded into 2020.

However, discussions with the National Treatment Purchase Fund had failed to deliver an acceptable resolution in respect of the increased funding required to sustain its 60 residential places, and this has resulted in this latest decision to cease admissions

Speaking last Monday, St. Joseph's Chief Executive Emma Balmaine said she was disappointed to have to make the announcement.

She said "Talks had been progressing well up until the end of this week. The HSE had come to the table, they understood our issues and we have an agreed way forward for continuing to fund day-care into 2020. Unfortunately, the talks with NTPF are not progressing in the same vein. We will of course continue to engage but the gap between what's on offer and what is needed to sustain this high-dependency service into the future, is still far too wide. We will do everything possible to save St Joseph's - however time is running out in respect of securing the necessary budget for 2020, and our Board is firmly of the view that there is no basis as of now, to enable us accept any new admissions at this time."

Management also appealed to supporters and staff to continue the ongoing campaign and that their help would be more important than ever in order to secure sustainable

funding for the facility. They said Minister Simon Harris would be held to account in respect of what he has committed to previously and should honour his pledge to keep St Joseph's open and it looked forward to studying the findings of the Nursing Home Pricing Review which the Minister said would be published several weeks ago.

Speaking last week, Cllr Whitmore said "Only a few short weeks ago, Minister Harris made the welcome statement that the "doors will not close" on St. Joseph's. Unfortunately, this does not seem to be the case, and the management at St. Joseph's have confirmed to families and staff this weekend that it will stop taking residential admissions with immediate effect.

"This cannot be allowed happen. There are 60 people living in St. Joseph's, and many others that use the day service, that rely on the excellent care they receive there, as do their families. We cannot overestimate the positive difference a model service like St. Joseph's can have on someone suffering from dementia. I have personal experience of a loved one living with dementia and the kind of dementia-specific care that is provided at St. Joseph's can radically improve a person's circumstances and brings incredible relief to loved ones as a result.

"The uncertainty that the residents and family members have gone through over the last few weeks since St. Joseph's first raised their funding concerns in the public arena must end now. It is not fair that families, who already have incredible stress and worry placed on them, now have to worry about whether they have to locate an alternative home for their loved ones. Minister Harris needs to ensure funding is provided and that he keeps his promise that the doors to St. Joseph's remain open," concludes Whitmore.

Fianna Fail Spokesperson on Health, Stephen Donnelly, expressed his horror at the news, saying "The move is a major step towards full closure of the facility, which could happen in a short number of weeks. This is despite clear and repeated promises from the Health Minister that the facility would remain open.

"What we're seeing here is outrageous backtracking from the Government.

Minister Simon Harris was very quick to take to the airwaves to reassure his voters that St Joseph's would be saved when it first revealed it was in danger of closing its doors in a funding crisis. He made similar promises on the floor of the Dáil.

Sinn Féin TD John Brady said: "Last month I questioned the Minister for Health Simon Harris in the Dáil about the threatened closure of St. Joseph's. He

gave categorical assurances that the funding would be provided to keep the doors open.

"The current situation which has been caused by the gross underfunding of St Joseph's by the government is causing anxiety, stress and uncertainty for the service users, their families and all the staff in the facility. Minister Harris must honour the commitment he gave in the Dáil."



Cathaoirleach Irene Winters and Chief Executive Frank Curran make a presentation to former Fianna Fail councillor Pat Doran, with his grandson Dan and daughter Collette

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Arklow C.B.S. Principal Peter Somers and Junior Head Teacher Markus Cosgrave present Conor Nugent with the Overall 2019 Junior Cert Award at the Arklow C.B.S. Awards Night

## Wicklow, Wexford and Waterford to partner with three Welsh councils

An exciting international project which brings together local authorities in Wicklow, Wexford and Waterford with colleagues in Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion in Wales was launched recently.

The Celtic Routes project aims to encourage visitors to explore new areas of South East Ireland and West Wales en route to their final tourist destination.

It hopes to transform less well-known areas from transit zones to new touring sites, increasing the time visitors spend in these regions and capitalising on the opportunities to boost local economies.

The project - which was launched recently in Wales - has been developed through customer research, trade events and workshops as well as cross border visits by businesses in Ireland and Wales to bring together expertise and ideas.

The objective is to increase the visitor appeal of the targeted areas, including through the development of new trails linking local culture, heritage and the natural environment. The Celtic Routes project will run until December 2020.

November's launch in the Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy, Co Wexford, was attended by representatives from the three Irish local authorities along with the Welsh Councils as well as TDs, Councillors, Business, Tourism and other representatives.

Welcoming the guests, including visitors from Wales, to the Sunny South East, the Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council (the lead authority for the project in Ireland), Cllr Michael Sheehan, said the initiative was supported by the three Irish local authorities and three in Wales adding: "The project will focus on a tailored and targeted marketing and promotional campaign to entice our main markets and visitor profile to 'Discover Your Celtic Routes.'"

The underlying aim of the Celtic Routes project was to convert potential visitors transiting through our

cities into staying visitors. Another objective was to increase sustainable economic developments by maximising visitor spend, income retention, adding value to the combined tourism offerings within the region through a tailored marketing and promotional campaign for both visitors and tourism providers, supported by the three Local Authorities.

Thanking the delegates for their attendance, Mr Tom Enright, Chief Executive, Wexford County Council, said funding of €1.9m for the Celtic Routes project was provided under the European Territorial Co-Operation Programme - known as Interreg or the Ireland/Wales Fund. This funding would not be affected by Brexit.

He explained: "This project is directed by co-operation - both between the Project Partners, between Local Authorities and State Agencies, and with all Tourism Providers - from Glamping and Camping, Dining and Dancing, Experiences and Escapades."

Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine, Mr Andrew Doyle TD, said: "It gives me great pleasure to be the first to applaud the Celtic Routes Project and their varied consultants on the production of this fantastic promotional clip - and for the vast wealth of collateral that will be available from the Toolkit for all Tourism Bodies and Businesses to use."

Minister with responsibility for Defence, Mr Paul Kehoe TD, said: "Celtic Routes is a branded collection of tourism experiences that encourages travellers to Ireland and Wales to discover the Celtic Spirit by offering a number of immersive and authentic Celtic experiences in West Wales and South East Ireland."

## Mobile recycling collection to be phased out

Wicklow's 2020 Budget contains the objective of removing mobile recycling collection in West Wicklow.

Raising the matter at November's budget meeting, Independent councillor Joe Behan said it would be "a retrograde step". "It's the only area that doesn't have access to recycling facilities and I would like to know what is the justification for it," he said. "It doesn't give the right impression considering the fact we are trying to encourage recycling."

Explaining the reasoning, Director of Services Sean Quirke said "This is a service that we have continued to provide, there are alternatives in place for householders where commercial companies are collecting. The standard of the collection is very low in that there is a lot of mixed waste going into it, so it's being used maybe not in the way that it was intended. We have had to spend money going out and enforcing and examining what people are putting into the recycling, it hasn't all been pure recyclable material, and what happens is if it's mixed it all goes to landfill. What we would propose to do is where there is an alternative in place that we would withdraw the service from those areas, over a period of time. The amount in the budget for mobile recycling is unchanged from last year. We're not proposing that the funding just be cut off."

# Smoky coal ban fails to catch fire

Councillors last week debated a motion put forward by Independent Councillor Rory O'Connor seeking to introduce a county-wide ban on smoky coal in County Wicklow. Councillors ultimately agreed to a toned-down version of the proposal, as they determined its more ambitious aspects to be beyond the Council's powers, and did not wish to expose the Council to legal action from the coal industry.

There is currently a smoky coal ban in place in Bray, Greystones/Delgany, Arklow, Wicklow Town and Rathnew.

According to the Council "Only smoke-free products can be sold in these areas. The Pollution Control Division carries out checks on suppliers to ensure compliance with the regulations. Air quality has vastly improved in these areas since the introduction of the ban, with a significant reduction in smog and sulphur dioxide since the 1980s.

"Wicklow, Rathnew, Greystones and Delgany are the most recent areas to be designated under the above Regulations as areas where 'smoky' coal is to be banned for heating purposes. Arklow and Bray were already designated under the Regulations. The smoke and gases from the burning of smoky coal can cause severe health prob-

lems for certain people including those vulnerable to lung infections but everyone benefits in the long run from having better quality air to breathe. From 1st May 2013, measures were introduced to improve air quality in these areas. For the first time, it is an offence to burn smoky coal in a house that is in an area where the use of smoky coal for heating purposes has been banned."

Cllr O'Connor's proposal sought to extend the ban to all areas. He asked that the Council "introduce and enforce a county-wide ban on the sale, distribution and burning of smoky coal in the absence of action from the Government on the matter".

The less radical aspects of the proposal requested that the Council provide an information campaign to consumers in Wicklow on the dangers of smoky coal; formally write to the

Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment and An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar urging them to introduce a nationwide ban without delay; write to Wicklow's TDs urging them to pursue the matter with the Minister; and seek a formal meeting with Minister for Health Simon Harris on the matter.

Cathaoirleach Irene Winters and Chief Executive Frank Curran were in agreement that the Council does not have the authority to introduce a county-wide ban.

Councillor John Snell agreed, saying that the Council should wait until the matter had been sorted out nationally at Government level: "Other councils haven't implemented this for fear of legal action," he said. "We shouldn't put our neck out there and expose taxpayers in this way."

Cllr Snell and also Cllr Joe Behan said that the Council needed to be mindful of people living in 'fuel poverty' who cannot afford to heat their homes in the most energy efficient way.

Green Party councillor Steven Matthews said that he supported the motion as far as what's within the remit of the Council. He said that other measures could be taken to improve Wicklow's air quality, such as addressing the issue of idling traffic outside of schools, which he described as "a huge problem".

Cllr Jennifer Whitmore said that a countywide air monitoring programme is needed to collect "evidence and data to back up any future bye-laws in this area. Part of the problem is there is only one monitoring system in the centre of Bray and it isn't even working at the moment."

## Donate a dinner to a horse

GAIN Equine Nutrition have launched their 'Donate A Christmas Dinner' campaign, which is giving Christmas dinners to horses in need at the Irish Horse Welfare Trust, based in Woodenbridge.

The campaign was launched across GAIN's social media channels on December 2nd. They want you to upload a picture of your horse tacked up for the festive season onto Facebook, Twitter or Instagram and tag 'GAIN Equine Nutrition' in your post. For every entry, they will donate a Christmas Dinner to the Irish Horse Welfare Trust (IHWT).

The campaign will run until 20th December so there is plenty of time to get into the festive spirit. This is a very worthy campaign to help horses and ponies in need this Christmas and every entry counts!

Established in 1999, the Irish Horse Welfare Trust

(IHWT) set out to help the plight of horses in Ireland and has grown over the past twenty years to care for roughly 60 horses and ponies. Located in Woodenbridge, the IHWT are dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and re-homing of abused and neglected horses and ponies.

The work of the IHWT also includes promoting exercisehorses for equestrianism; as well as promoting equine welfare awareness and running educational programmes.

Sharon Power, Co- Founder of the IHWT said, "We've had a very busy year here at the IHWT with an unprecedented number of cruelty cases coming in last spring and through the summer.

"We are really grateful to GAIN for their ongoing support for all these years in helping us to rehabilitate and give these horses and ponies a new life," he concluded.



Pictured at the launch of the 'Donate a Christmas Dinner' campaign are Joanne Hurley, Irish Country Manager, GAIN Equine Nutrition, Martin Bolger, IHWT, Ella Bourke, Transition Year Student, Cal Nolan, IHWT Volunteer, and Grade 1 winning thoroughbred, Sizing Europe.

# Opposition grows to N11 upgrade options

Meeting attendees left 'mystified, frustrated, and determined'

There was standing room only in the big meeting room in The Glenview Hotel on Monday, 2nd December as concerned locals gathered to share information about the proposed plans for new motorway routes on the N11.

The meeting was also attended by local councillors Rory O'Connor, Melanie Corrigan, Jennifer Whitmore and Steven Matthews.

After the meeting, the M11 'Friday 13th Information Group' (named after the Friday 13th deadline for submissions), released a statement saying "for many of the attendees, the meeting was their first inkling that a new 6-lane motorway could rip through green belts, farms, houses, businesses and local amenities. The local residents from Kilpedder, Drummin, Glen of the Downs, Ballydonagh, Delgany, Greystones, Kilmurry, Kilmac, Foxborough Lane, and many other areas are now joining forces to fight the new 6-lane motorway routes."

Concerns were expressed by locals about the motorway proposals destroying the viability of farms, ripping through living rooms, or stranding them on an island between the old N11 and the new M11. For almost

everyone, the health effects on children were a concern too.

"As the meeting progressed and people realised the full scale of the scheme being planned, three words summed up the mood - mystified, frustrated, and determined", the Information Group said.

"People of course see the importance of improved transport. But they are mystified as to why these options have been chosen. They are frustrated about the lack of proper information, and they are determined to use every possible option - whether it be awareness raising, objections, legal challenges or more to stop the scheme in its tracks and force a rethink."

The Information Group says that the new motorway routes proposed as alternatives to the improvement and widening of the N11 to make it the M11 have no support from local residents.

"The national roads strategy also failed to find any basis for putting more

cars on the N11 as it would just bring more cars onto an already full M50," they say.

"There are a number of routes. The Orange and Pink routes would rip through or over Drummin Hill, traverse the valley at Delgany Village, take out a section of houses at Valley View, before moving on up through Delgany Golf Club, into more houses, trees and farms at Ballydonagh and into Foxborough Lane before re-joining the existing N11 (or new parts of what are the existing N11 route). The scheme would need huge embankments or flyovers - maybe eight storeys high, for motorways with capacity for up to 80,000 cars per day and costing huge amounts of taxpayer's money. And all just announced with limited information.

"The Cyan route to the west of the beautiful Glen of the Downs takes a more meandering route. And on the map provided by the proposers, it looks harmless. But local knowledge shows that the

route would destroy the livelihood of countless small farmers, whose families have worked the land for generations. It would demolish an ancient ring fort, hit wells or water courses at many points. Not to mention the homes that would be wrecked or left severed from any local village. Widening the N11 also brings a multitude of challenges in engineering, environmental, cost and more.

"This option too, the so called Red Corridor, creates problems instead of solving them and it too would wreck the homes and lives of families living in the path of the bulldozers.

"None of the options actually address the real issues - bad planning, poor public transport, siloed thinking and the ill-conceived desire to pump hundreds of millions of euro into a road that is not needed, not wanted and not properly planned.

"Objections on the basis of environmental grounds, community severance, health damage,



A packed meeting room in the Glenview Hotel

bio-diversity, economic development needs, and more need to be sent to N11M11@arup.com before Friday 13th December. Use your voice as members of the community and say No Way!"

One group that will be making a submission is Delgany Community Council, which has put together a N11/M11 working group and is also urging members of the public to have their say.

Delgany Community Council said. "The working group has reviewed in detail the N11/M11 options that have been given and met with Wicklow Co Co and ARUP. We have been in contact with local concerned resident groups in order to share information. We have also been in contact with local TD's

and councillors looking for their views and informing them of the huge concern locally. It is imperative that the public make submissions on this issue."

Speaking last week, Cllr Steven Matthews (Green Party) said "The only idea Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) have is to widen the road, which most of us know won't work or solve the problem. I have attended several packed public meetings and spoken with many residents and motorists, all of whom are dismayed at these proposals. The proposals on a third lane and driving a road through green field environmentally sensitive landscapes and people's homes is backwards thinking transport planning from 30 years ago.

"Unfortunately, many of our local representatives and TDs are still in a 1990s car dependent mindset, don't understand the link between transport emissions and climate change and still love the thought of a big shiny road ribbon cutting ceremony. It is incredible and extremely worrying to hear so many of our public representatives call for this outdated proposal to be 'fast tracked' despite knowing little about the implications of this plan.

"In my view this plan is flawed and outdated and has been constrained unnecessarily to look at a road only solution. That's not surprising, the authorities like their roads, love building them (and politicians love fixing them) and it's mostly what has been done to address transport in Ireland for

decades. Hence, we are a car dependent nation who sit daily in chaotic traffic congestion.

"Somewhere between Phase 1 and Phase 2 something has changed. The railway is not part of this plan, in fact it is not part of any plan. The NTA (National Transport Authority) has left the Wicklow railway line out of its transport strategy for the south east.

"By being constrained to a road only solution it's no surprise that the consultants have presented a roads only proposal. This is a big mistake, the legacy of which is further car dependency, congestion, air pollution, environmental degradation, societal impacts, economic loss and worst of all continued increase in climate changing emissions," concluded Cllr Matthews.

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Benjamin, Rachel and Conor Kennedy at the switching on of the Christmas Lights in Newtownmountkennedy

## Former footballer and principal releases debut novel

**The debut novel from a former secondary school principal and Wicklow County Footballer, Blue Star Rising, hit number 3 in the Bestselling Charts in Dubray Bray with only two children's books by David Walliams ahead, thanks to strong local support for the Bray native now living in Wicklow Town.**

Keith Ryan played Gaelic Football for Wicklow in the 1970's and 1980's, winning Nation League Division 2, 3, and 4 medals in an unprecedented period of success for the Garden County. He was a key member of the 1974 Minor Football Team that has the distinction of being the first and only Wicklow team to win the Leinster Football Championship. Wicklow beat a Longford side powered by St. Mel's, who were All-Ireland Colleges Champions that year, in the provincial decider in Croke Park.

Longford had beaten Dublin in the semi-final while Wicklow had conquered Laois and Meath to reach the decider. Wicklow demolished Longford that day winning by 5-6 to 1-9. It was the curtain-raiser to the Kevin Heffernan's Dublin team that went on to win the All-Ireland in what proved to be the dawn of a golden era for the Dubs. Keith later marked the late Syngé Street's Anton O'Toole, the Blue Panther, in the Leinster Championship, when Dublin narrowly shaded it in that famous clash in Newbridge in 1981.

Keith Ryan worked as a teacher in St. Brendan's College, Woodbrook from 1979 before taking the reins as Principal of Syngé Street CBS in 2002. He was chairperson of the Dublin Inner City Network of Post-

Primary schools, a body representing the interests of all but one of the schools in Dublin Inner City.

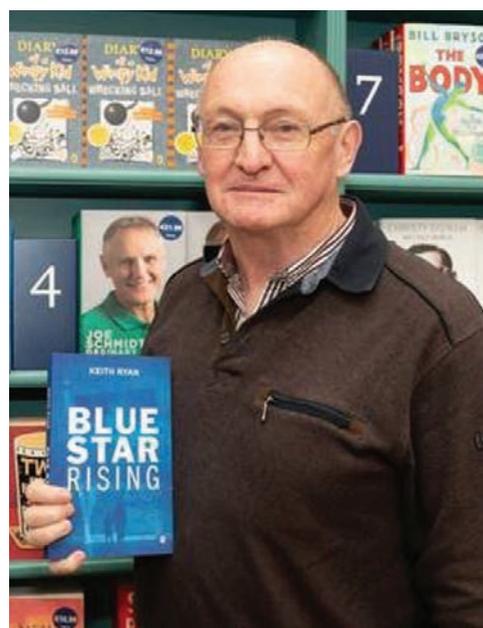
Syngé Street CBS has a dedicated teaching staff and a glittering array of Past-Pupils including Cearbhall Ó Dálaigh (President of Ireland 1974-76), Gay Byrne, Eamonn Andrews, Eddie Jordan, Liam Cosgrave (Taoiseach), and Harry Boland (Volunteer). An impressive list of writers includes John Connolly, Brian O'Nolan (Flann O'Brien), James Plunkett, Cornelius Ryan, and John Carney who made the fictitious film Sing Street. Ronan Larkin won the Young Scientist Exhibition in 2004 under the guidance of teacher Jim Cooke which sparked an unprecedented run of success including two further winners and numerous other prizes.

Ryan was appointed to the position of Principal of Oatlands College in 2005 and remained there until his retirement in 2013. Under his leadership the College embarked on an ambitious re-development of its facilities including a new Technology Wing and a state-of-the-art Sports Centre. It is an Academic Centre of Excellence where Music, Drama, and Sport continue to flourish under the present Principal Caroline Garrett and her team of inspiring teachers. Rory O'Carroll a member of the Dublin 5-in-a-row team is a recent past pupil.

Since retiring in 2013 Keith Ryan has devoted his time to writing, singing and family. He is Chairperson of Voices of Bray Community Choir who are in final preparations for their Christmas Concert in St. Fergal's Church Bray on Sunday 8th December. His passion for sport and his experiences in education have inspired his first book Blue Star Rising. It is a literary novel set in the autumn of 1993, and tells the story of Richard (Dickie) Boyle, a member of the Dublin Gaelic Football Team who face Kerry in the All-Ireland Final. As a child, Richard was fostered from his birth family in the inner city to a middle class family in the suburbs. He starts a temporary teaching job in a Sheltered Workshop where he meets Dee. This tale of young love is set against a background of life threatening violence, social imbalance, and family opposition. The journey of self-discovery takes him back to his birth family in Dublin's flatland, and their involvement with drugs and paramilitary violence, forcing Richard to confront his past, a past that threatens to destroy all that he holds dear.

Since pre-release last week it has been the top best-seller non-children's book in Dubray Bray. It is published by Camaderry Press, an Independent Company owned by the author. A busy 2020 will see the publication of a book of poetry and an historical novel set in the blitz of WW2.

Blue Star Rising is available in Bridge Street Books, Wicklow Town, Dubray Books, Bray and Stillorgan and Reads Stillorgan and online at readsdirect.ie, and Village Books, Greystones. It is available to order on Amazon.co.uk and Amazon.com both as a paperback and as an e-book. It is also available to download in Kindle, Apple, and in all good online stores such as Kobo, Barnes and Noble, etc.



Author Keith Ryan

# New investment in St. Kevin's Way

**St. Kevin's Way is one of 10 new trails added to the Walks Scheme operated by the Department of Rural and Community Development. These are the first trails to be added as part of a phased expansion that will see the Walks Scheme doubling in size to 80 trails when all phases of the expansion are complete.**

Minister Simon Harris TD said: "This is another welcome boost for local tourism. My colleague Minister Michael Ring confirmed to me that the expansion of the Walks Scheme to 10 extra walks will include St Kevin's Way. This expansion reflects the success of the scheme to date in delivering high quality walking trails and follows the Government's commitment to double the number of trails in the scheme over time.

"The St Kevin's Way covers 2.5km and includes 5 land owners. The Scheme contracts the landowners and farmers, or their nominees, to undertake maintenance work on sections of National Waymarked Ways and other priority walks that traverse their lands. The Scheme is administered at a local level by Local Development Companies. St. Kevin's Way comprises approximately five landowners and 2.5km of private land. In announcing the expansion of the scheme, Minister Michael Ring said "This expansion reflects the success of the Walks Scheme to date in delivering high quality walking trails, and will help realise the Government's commitment to double the number of trails in the scheme over time. Up to 40 new trails will be added when all phases of the expansion are complete.

"This first phase of the expansion will see an additional 283 participants receive payments

for maintaining 10 separate trails located across 8 counties. These trails run for a combined length of approximately 500km, with 174 km of this going through private lands.

"I want to acknowledge the work of all the landowners involved in the scheme, some for many years, who help to maintain the trails to a high standard for the benefit of the huge number of locals and visitors who use these trails."

Minister Ring continued "The expansion of the scheme follows a call for Expressions of Interest earlier this year which saw more than 50 applications being received. "Up to 30 more walks will be added to the scheme over the next year, once my Department has completed a review of the Scheme and further trails are assessed to ensure that they meet the necessary standards to be included in the scheme.

"This is good news for landowners and for the ever increasing number of people who want

to get out and experience the beautiful outdoor areas that we have in such abundance. Investing in our trails also pays economic dividends. Thousands of tourists make walking, hiking, and other outdoor pursuits an important part of their stay in Ireland."

The expansion of the Walks Scheme was also warmly welcomed by Dr. Liam Twomey, the Chairperson of Comhairle na Tuaithe (The Countryside Council) which is representative of the key stakeholders involved in outdoor recreation in the countryside.

Dr. Twomey said "I very much welcome the addition of these 10 trails to the Walks Scheme. Comhairle na Tuaithe has received a renewed mandate from Minister Ring to support the sustainable development of the outdoor recreation sector and the expansion of the Walks Scheme is one of a number of promising initiatives that I expect will assist the sector in delivering on its potential."

There are currently 39

## Florentine set for Summer 2020 opening

**The opening of the Florentine Centre in Bray has been delayed until next summer, it was revealed at last week's meeting of Bray Municipal District Council.**

Originally, it was hoped that the centre would be open in time for Christmas 2019. However due to a number of factors, such as retaining the original façade on the main street (which has resulted in an increase in the need for more steel and steel workers), the architect going into receivership, and recent bad weather, the opening has been delayed a few months.

The 'practical completion' is expected to be in

February or March, before the fitout starts, and the opening is expected at the end of the second quarter.

Bray & District Chamber of Commerce have said there has been a lot of interest in the available units at the Centre, with some already having signed contracts and the anchor tenants are at the advanced stages of contract completion. It is expected that the cinema will be one of the first units to be completed.



Digital image of the completed Florentine Centre

# Irish Rail slammed over County Wicklow's poor rail service

Representatives from Iarnrod Eireann attended last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council where they were subjected to a grilling from councillors who vented their frustrations with Wicklow's rail service.

Irish Rail spokesperson Jane Cregan and Passenger Services Manager John Reville fielded questions from councillors who complained about the frequency of the service south of Bray and the failure of the service to meet the demands of the population increase over a number of years.

Councillors put a number of suggestions to the representatives, including the possibility of a 20-minute DART service from Greystones, an extra stop being added at Charlesland, and increasing the frequency of trains from Wicklow Town.

However, a lack of funding means that the major problems with Wicklow's rail service are unlikely to be addressed any time soon, and the National Transport Authority (NTA) has excluded the Wicklow railway line from its transport strategy for the South East.

Mr Reville said he had not heard of Charlesland: "I don't know Charlesland, but I do know that we don't have plans under our National Development Plan (NDP) or any other forum to develop either a new station or indeed to bring back to life stations that may have existed at a point in time."

Ms Cregan explained that "The only new station under the NDP is at Woodbrook, north of Bray. It's the only one that is planned, that is not to say that in the future that won't change."

The Irish Rail repre-

sentatives were more hopeful however with regards to smaller improvements being achieved, such as improving services at Kilcoole train station and installing lighting at Rathdrum train station.

Mr Reville agreed that "It's high time Kilcoole benefitted from things like a ticket vending machine and other 'standard platform furniture' such as a shelter and things like that. I have looked into the prospect of extending the car park, because it's a narrow type car park, it's not fit for purpose. We are not a landowner in the area. Sometimes our holding company, CIE, benefits from holding adjacent land, but we don't own land at Kilcoole, so the prospect of extending the platform isn't going to be an easy one for us but we will take a look at the plat-



Cllr Derek Mitchell

form itself and a vending machine and tag on tag off facilities."

Speaking last week, Cllr Derek Mitchell said "The N11 overfills while Irish Rail keeps the rail line south of Greystones virtually empty at rush hour. The most recent

rail investment resulted in longer journey times to Dublin from Greystones, Wicklow and Arklow. Irish Rail seems to want people from Wicklow to use their cars.

"Irish Rail has no plan to improve the service south of Bray. This is why I wrote a plan to provide three trains of eight carriages from Arklow and 50% more DARTS to Greystones. The latter idea has been shown to be possible by the Jacobs Engineering study.

"The 2018 Rail & Commuter Transport Plan for East Wicklow, prepared by myself and presented to the Council last year, needs to be implemented, as does the Greystones Service Improvement Study by Jacobs for the NTA in April 2019.

"In the shorter term, some of the 41 new carriages ordered by the Government should be used to lengthen the 5:50am train from Gorey. Preferably this train would then be run 30 minutes later when there is greater demand and available track space at Bray Head. The 9:05am train from Wicklow should stop in Kilcoole. Space must be left for Wicklow trains to get to Dublin at rush hour."

Councillors Jennifer Whitmore and Lourda Scott were also vocal about the rail problems affecting the Greystones Municipal District, while the Wicklow Municipal District councillors also had much to complain about.

"There is a major

problem in the south east, we have doubled in size population wise, but the timetables haven't changed at all," said Cllr Paul O'Brien. "There are two trains in the morning leaving Wicklow town, 6.30am and 7.30am, packed to capacity."

Cllr Gail Dunne said "a lot of new housing estates have been built in Wicklow but the service



Cllr Mary Kavanagh

has not been improved to meet the demand. There are only five trains going into Dublin per day."

Independent councillor Mary Kavanagh described Wicklow's transport situation as "a perfect storm": and being in a state of "chaos". She said "the transport situation in this part of the country is in dire straits at the moment. If you are a commuter you would know about it; the roads are blocked, there are not enough trains, it's the perfect storm, it couldn't be any worse. We need to have joined up thinking, we need to have everyone on board, we need to try and sort out these problems.

Cathaoirleach Irene Winters said that she campaigned for extra

trains from Wicklow 36 years ago and that "in 36 years nothing has changed": "In 1983 I was on the Irish Rail commuter passenger group from Wicklow Town asking for rail improvements. At that stage we had two morning trains and 36 years later we still have two morning trains and I know you haven't had investment for the last ten years but in 36 years nothing has changed.

"The Jacobs report is the first report that has come up with a plan to produce the possibility of a better service and I think Cllr Mitchell has to be commended for putting all of that time and effort in himself to come up with something that gave a working framework to try and produce a better service. We will certainly be making representations but you need to go back to the NTA from this



Cllr Irene Winters

meeting and tell them you are looking for the funding to see if this is viable, because in 36 years there has been no other answer."



EJ Fanning presents Stephen Nolan with the Fintan Fanning Endeavour Award at the Arklow C.B.S. Awards Night.

## 33 enforcement notices issued to local quarries

Thirty-three enforcement notices have been issued to quarries in Co. Wicklow since new legislation was introduced in 2012 requiring quarries to register and comply with national regulations.

The information was revealed at last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council following a question from Cllr Jennifer Whitmore, who observed that Wicklow was excluded from an RTE Investigates programme on the topic of unauthorised quarries which aired recently.

Repanding to Cllr Whitmore, Director of Services Sean Quirke said that the Council had issued 33 enforcement notices to quarries since the legislation was introduced.

He explained that 11 cases still remain open and nine quarries have ceased operations. One case is currently making its way through the High Court and Mr Quirke said there is a challenge as to whether it is unauthorised, while another quarry is due for a review next year but currently there is nothing being quarried there anyway.

Mr Quirke added that the Council had supplied these figures to the RTE investigates programme but that they weren't included in the programme.

## 'End commuter nightmare before Christmas'

Stephen Donnelly TD has claimed that a simple 3-point plan could help end the commuter nightmare on one of Wicklow's busiest roads before Christmas.

Deputy Donnelly explained, "If you ask most people who drive from Wicklow into Dublin City Centre if they could have one Christmas wish, I bet many of them would say that they would like a shorter daily commute. Well that is entirely possible if the Transport Minister just makes these three simple changes.

"Step 1) Turn the hard shoulder on the N11 into a dedicated bus corridor in both directions; Step 2) Increase the number of express bus services on offer and increase the frequency of the existing express buses such as the 84X; Step 3) Double the number of 'Park and Ride' facilities in Wicklow Town, Greystones, Bray, Enniskerry, Delgany,



Stephen Donnelly TD

Kilmacnogue, Rathdrum and Ashford. "Not only would

these changes help shave hours off the length of time it takes to get to and from the city centre, the shift towards public transport is also much kinder to the environment. One of the biggest obstacles to people leaving their car at home is the lack of available alternatives. Under this simple 3-point plan, buses are increased, access is improved, and journey times are slashed. In other words, it offers an immediate solution to current gridlock prob-

lem we're facing. "Longer term we're looking at the need for employers to offer their staff flexi time to stagger the number of cars on the road during rush hours and we need the Government to create decent work opportunities in all the commuter belt counties. "If the Transport Minister wants to be taken off the naughty list I suggest he tries to follow the 3-point plan before Christmas is over", concluded Donnelly.

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# Christmas in GREYSTONES



## Carol Singing in Greystones with Cecil Beare Ecumenical Group

**It is hard to believe that it is time, once more, to dig out the torch and gloves, don the stout shoes and the Santa hat and head out into the wintry evening.**

However, it is that time again, so the Cecil Beare Ecumenical Carol Group are calling on people to join them for at least one evening as they sing around Greystones.

"If you can't come out with us, please have some cash available as we are not equipped to use cards. We start every evening at 7.20pm (see below for the

starting point each evening) and finish around 9.30. No musical skill required though greatly valued if it is present. Collectors are as valuable as singers and it is great exercise as well as being fun. Last year we collected over €5,000 for the following local charities: the Poor Funds of the four Greystones churches, Five Loaves, Open Door, Greystones Cancer Support Group, Alice Leahy Trust, and Tiglin. This is a difficult year for charities, so we need your help. If callers come to your door, please ask them who they represent and ask to see their permit."

### Starting Points: 7.20pm SHARP

Wednesday, 11th. December, Nature's Gold Shop for Burnaby area.

Thursday, 12th. December, Grattan Pk. Nr. Donnybrook Fair for Grattan Pk. Kindleston area

Monday, 16th. Applewood Heights Vet. Clinic for Applewood, Oaklands

Tuesday 17th. Fenton's Shop for Hillside

Wednesday, 18th. Brady's Shop for Mountainview Park, New Road, Lr. Rathdown Park

Thursday, 20th. Fenton's Shop for Heathervue,

Monday, 23rd. Top of Rathdown Pk. for Rathdown, Redford Park.

Wrap up warmly and bring gloves and a torch and if possible a high-vis jacket or reflective bands.

Children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult. Any queries to Ruth Handy, 287 5161.

Greystones' own Making Waves Youth Theatre is delighted to present *Lost in Transit* by Ciarán Coogan, which comes to Whale Theatre on Thursday 12th December. When a group of bored teenagers are stuck on a delayed train, a battered old suitcase takes them to unexpected places. In this lively and engaging play, two contrasting and entertaining stories emerge as our travellers and audience explore the imaginative possibilities of a suitcase lost in transit.

Director: Ciarán Coogan. Cast: Aleisha Archer, Archer Bradshaw, Rosie Carter, Michael Clarke, Cian Crean, Eoin Davy, Medbh Devereux, Aisling Dillon-Roberts, Conor Doyle, Alice Jolyet-Cunningham, Amy Kennedy, Lina Kolipost, Katie, Lacey Curtis, Conor Lowe, Ciara Shortt, Gráinne Shortt, Ruben Sweeney, and Emily Tierney. Thursday 12th December at 6.30pm (Doors 6pm) and 8.30pm (Doors 8pm) Tickets €10

See [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie) or call the booking office on 01 2010550

## Shop local in Greystones

The Christmas spirit has truly arrived in Greystones now that the lights are on and the tree is on display. There was a huge turnout out the lighting ceremony with everyone full of festive cheer.

Everyone's thoughts are now focused on Christmas shopping, and Greystones, well serviced by the 84 and 184 bus, is a hassle-free option for the hard-pressed shopper. If you shop in Greystones, you'll be spared having to walk very far with heavy shopping bags as all the shops are within walking distance of each other. If you're a Greystones resident you might also be able to walk to and from the town without needing to take the car out.

Even those traveling to

Greystones from further afield to do their shopping, will find it a stress-free experience with plenty of parking available. Also, in the run-up to Christmas you can have two hours free parking. This will certainly help you to shop local and support your community.

Greystones is ever-changing and new shops and businesses are popping up all the time. From Church Road to the Harbour, from Charlesland to the Meridian Shopping

Centre, there are many outlets to explore in Greystones. A look through the advertisements on this page will illustrate the great choices that are available and should inspire many creative ideas for the best Christmas gifts. Butchers, bakers, off-licenses and supermarkets can stock your Christmas kitchen, and allow you to see out the season in some style. As for gifts, Greystones has you covered.

After your day of shopping locally in

Greystones, you can relax with a drink or meal in one of the town's excellent pubs, cafes or restaurants, without having to worry about a long commute back home.

For all of these reasons and more, Greystones is well worth keeping in mind in the run-up to this Christmas. So, pop down to Greystones and pick up your Christmas supplies this year without any stress or hassle. The festive season in Greystones is certainly worth investigating!



Santa's elves lending a hand at Greystones' Christmas lights switch-on

## 'A magical weekend from start to finish'

**The recent Holyhead/Greystones Twinning Celebrations were 'just magical, from start to finish', Kathleen Kelleher said.**

The event saw a delegation from Holyhead visit Greystones on the weekend of the Christmas Lights switch-on celebrations.

"First of all, a very big thank you to everyone who played a role in their success," said Kathleen.

"Our Twinning Celebrations included Holyhead participation in the town's Christmas Lighting Ceremony. Greystones 2020 and Greystones Municipal District held their best event ever. Well done!

"The entertainment on the day and Santa were superb. Santa stayed on site for every single child.

"The Concert with Holyhead and Newtownmountkennedy Male Voice Choirs was outstanding. Held in Greystones Rugby Club, the men raised the roof and continued their singing later at the Parkview Hotel in Newtownmountkennedy where the contingent was staying. The Parkview Hotel gave our Holyhead visitors a very warm welcome.

They were delighted with their stay there.

"The concert included light classical and familiar songs. The two choirs sang separately and then joined forces for the finale.

### Delgany Carol Service

The Delgany Carol Service will take place on Wednesday 11th December at 7pm outside Delgany Mart. Bring your voices, instruments, and holiday cheer! There will be mulled wine, mince pies and treats for all. Everyone is welcome to attend. There will be a collection on non-perishable donations on the night for the local Vincent de Paul Society.

The highlight was American Trilogy, a joint rendition, which received a standing ovation. The Magee Family, a five trad/folk band of five brothers from Holyhead, played during the interval. They went down a treat with their rousing music, they are very talented musicians and singers indeed.

There was not one disappointed member of the full house audience. Everyone went away happy! Many thanks to GRFC for great hospitality.

Next on the Twinning Agenda is a trip by Greystones to Holyhead for St. David's Day, on 1st March 2020. Renewed thanks again to all who travelled over from Holyhead."



Santa is welcomed to Greystones by the local Gardaí for the switching on of the Christmas lights.

# Christmas in GREYSTONES

## Two hours of free parking on Saturdays

Shoppers will enjoy two hours free Christmas parking in all Pay and Display Parking areas in Greystones on each Saturday for the month of December.

This initiative to support local business was agreed by the Cathaoirleach and Members of Greystones Municipal District who are encouraging shoppers to avail of the free parking to shop locally and enjoy the range of services on offer in Greystones.

Wardens will be on duty to monitor and enforce illegal parking each Saturday.

Free parking is available in the car parks at South Beach, Trafalgar Road and La Touche Road throughout the year, every Saturday and throughout

the town on Sundays.

There are 460 free parking spaces available in Greystones Park & Ride car park 365 days of the year.

Free parking daily between 9am and 10am and 15 minutes grace period is allowed on commencement of parking.

Cashless parking is available in Greystones using Parking Tag which allows motorists to park by phone and extend parking times without returning to the vehicle. Details available on [www.parkingtag.ie](http://www.parkingtag.ie), motorists can register online or on the Parking Tag mobile app.



Ross McParland from Whale Theatre with Cllr Gerry Walsh at the switching on of the Christmas Lights in Greystones. Pic: John McGowan

## Bolshoi Ballet Live at Whale Theatre: The Nutcracker

On Christmas Eve, Marie's Nutcracker doll magically transforms into a prince and their wonderful adventure begins...

The holiday classic returns to the majestic Bolshoi stage for a live broadcast of a timeless story, The Nutcracker, taking audiences of all ages on a magical journey through a world of enchantment complete with dancing snowflakes and dolls that have come to life, accompanied by Tchaikovsky's beloved score, with Choreography by Yuri Grigorovich and Libretto by Yuri Grigorovich.

Cast: The Bolshoi Principals, Soloists and Corps de Ballet.

There will be a full Bar, Wicklow Farmhouse Cheeseboards, Fresh Popcorn and Confectionery available to buy on the night.

Sunday 15th December at 3pm (Doors 2.30pm) Tickets €20/€17.50.

See [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie) or call the booking office on 01 2010550



The Nutcracker will be broadcast live in Whale Theatre on Christmas Eve



The Colaiste Chraobh Abhann choir performing at the switching on of the Christmas Lights in Burnaby Park. Pic: John McGowan

### What's on...

#### Coffee & Cake at Coolnagreina

There will be a coffee morning (with cake!) at YWCA Coolnagreina, Trafalgar Road, Greystones (just up from Greystones Harbour Marina, entrance opposite Harbour Barber), on Tuesday 10th December, from 10:30am to 12:30pm.

This event takes place on the second Tuesday of the month. There will be wonderful home baking which you won't be able to resist. Donations in aid of Youth Cafe. Come along for warm welcome, good friendship and all in aid of a good cause.

#### Book launch

Award-winning local Greystones writer Frances Browner launcher her new book 'Roots and Wings' via Limerick Writers Centre and Revival Press, in Greystones Library at 6pm on Wednesday 11th December. The book is a collection of poems

#### ICA Delgany Guild

Irish Countrywomens Association (Delgany Guild) hold their last Guild meeting of the year in St. Patricks W & R Centre, Church Road, Greystones, on Monday December 9th December at 8pm. Mulled Wine and mince Pies. Come on down!

# WHALE

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Ann Doyle and Richella Wood at the annual Co. Wicklow Older Persons Council seminar in the Glendalough Hotel

## Local projects to benefit from Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

**Wicklow is to benefit from €58,560 funding for 5 projects under 2019 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme.**

Donard Glens Walking Trails - Fauna Loop will receive €7,200 towards the development of a walking trail; Baltinglass Cycle Trails Project will receive €8,800 towards the establishment of a network of marked signage as part of looped cycling trails around Baltinglass; Knockananna Walking Loops will receive €7,840 Development of looped walking trail from the village of Knockananna works include trail infrastructure, signage, map, gates and benches. Wicklow Way Infrastructure upgrade grant of €20,000 towards the upgrade of 10 information trail boards, new signage and repair works and finally €14,720 towards a

Wicklow long distance walks video. Fine Gael TD Andrew Doyle said: "There is no doubting the importance of these projects for the wellbeing and quality of life of residents. As a nation, we have embraced the great outdoors in growing numbers and I am pleased that Fine Gael in Government is playing a central role in facilitating the development of this important sector. "The funding awarded today will support small-scale local projects for investment in outdoor recreation facilities and the promotion of existing recreation infrastructure and I know this will make a big difference to local people. Our investment in

outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure also pays a significant economic dividend.

"Thousands of tourists make walking, hiking, cycling and other outdoor pursuits an important part of their stay in Ireland. Last year alone, almost 2.7 million overseas visitors engaged in some form of cross-country walking or hiking, while over half a million visitors incorporated cycling into their stay.

"In addition, one in four of us included walking or hiking as part of our domestic holidays last year. This funding will make a huge difference to the ongoing maintenance and development of the outdoor recreation facilities that are being supported.

"Projects approved under this measure include the upgrade of surfaces on

walking trails, improvements to route signage, improved facilities at trail access points, the development of promotional materials, and the provision of beach access.

"Since 2016, I have provided over €43 million in funding to support the outdoor recreation sector.

"I will shortly be making further announcements in relation to mid-sized and larger projects which have applied for funding under separate strands of the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme."

The scheme is part of the Government's Project Ireland 2040 Rural Regeneration and Development programme and provides funding for the development and maintenance of outdoor amenities such as trails, walkways, cycleways and blueways.

## Redcross man elected to National Executive of Young Fine Gael

**Dylan Hutchinson from Redcross was elected to the National Executive of Young Fine Gael, at the Organisation's National Conference in Carlow last weekend.**

The event saw YFG members gather for three days of debate, discussion and socialising. The Conference was also addressed by An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, Tánaiste Simon Coveney, Minister John Paul Phelan, Maria Walsh MEP Midlands North-West. Aside from the electioneering and policy discussions, there was also a speech by Special Guest Peter Ryan, Fine Gael Councillor and Paralympic Cyclist.

Members attending the

Conference elected a new ten-member National Executive for the Organisation, comprising of the President, Vice President, a National Panel and four regional representatives.

Dylan has been a member of Young Fine Gael for over three years and he is very active in local politics with Wicklow Fine Gael.

"I am delighted to have been elected. It is integral that the youth of Ireland continue to have an important role to play in Ireland's future, and I hope



Dylan Hutchinson

that I can help to make a difference for my generation going forward," he said.

Young Fine Gael is the

youth wing of the Fine Gael party, with a network of thousands of members nationwide aged between 15 and 35. Founded by Garret FitzGerald in 1977 as Ireland's first independent political youth organisation. YFG has been involved in many political campaigns on issues such as insurance for young drivers, the price of housing for young homebuyers and the issue of youth depression and suicide. YFG is also a member of the Youth of the European People's Party (YEPP).

## Maxi Zoo is making Christmas special for all animals

**Ireland's largest pet retailer, Maxi Zoo will make Christmas extra special not only for pampered pets, but also less fortunate animals over the festive season. You are invited to pop into your local Maxi Zoo store in Bray throughout December and support their Shelter Wishes charity campaign, which will help animals less fortunate than your own this Christmas.**

Each store has selected their own Shelter Wishes animal charity partner, who will compile a wish list of products available in store which their beneficiaries need and want. These gifts, of varying value, can be purchased in store, donated and placed under the Shelter Wishes Christmas Tree.

Maxi Zoo Bray's Shelter Wishes partner is the Wicklow Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (WSPCA or The Society), which promotes the responsible custody of animals. They have prevented their cruelty, and rehabilitated and re-homed countless numbers to better lives. The Society has also become an intrinsic part of the Wicklow community, and has become a focal point for social good through volunteering, education, employment, fundraising and the promotion of rural sustainability.

Each charity involved will collect the donated gifts

from Maxi Zoo stores on Christmas Eve, ensuring that needy animals are not forgotten this Christmas. Anthony Cremin, Marketing Manager at Maxi Zoo said "At Maxi Zoo we love animals, and we believe all animals deserve the very best. The thought of animals suffering is at the forefront of our minds, especially at Christmas, and this is why Shelter Wishes was created - to make life a little brighter for less fortunate animals at this time of year."

For those pets lucky enough to have a loving home year-round, Maxi Zoo will host a very special FREE Christmas "Paw-ty" in stores on Saturday, December 14th. The big man himself, "Santa Paws" will be in store from 12 to 4pm, and pet owners are encouraged to bring their fur babies along and take their own special Christmas photo with the man in red.

Anthony added "On December 14th, we're inviting our customers to come along with their pets and take a fun photo with Santa Paws. The day will also be a great opportunity to support our Shelter Wishes campaign, and also pick up those all important Christmas presents for the pets in your life - from festive jumpers to tasty advent calendars."

For further information about Maxi Zoo's Shelter Wishes campaign and Santa Paws Day, chat to the pet experts at Maxi Zoo Bray, Southern Cross Road or see [www.maxizoo.ie](http://www.maxizoo.ie).

## Year ending well for Tinahely trainer at Thurles

**The year is ending well for Tinahely trainer Philip Rothwell who was among the winners once again at Thurles on Thursday, 28th November.**

He added to recent successes for Fiveaftermidnight and Enduring Love when the Carol Hogan-owned Wolfofallstreets won the 2m handicap hurdle in runaway fashion.

The 12/1 chance was ridden by James O'Sullivan and went clear between the final two flights to win by nine and a half lengths from Ard Na Carraig. Rothwell said, "All summer I had been dropping him in over 2m4f and we didn't really know what trip he needed.

"I had it in my head when the ground got softer that going further wasn't ideal but said we would ride him more positively and let him enjoy it. I told James to stay out of the ground that they had been racing on earlier in the day, it was a great ride. Carol Hogan is top class and I'm delighted to have another winner for her."



'Santa Paws' was joined by Buddy and Maxi Zoo brand ambassador Emma Fanning to announce details of Maxi Zoo's Shelter Wishes campaign and Santa Paws day. Pic: Conor Healy

# Christmas in ARKLLOW

## Shop in Arklow this Christmas

There are plenty of reasons to shop local in Arklow this Christmas; locals will be able to find everything they need on their doorstep, while visitors to the town will be pleasantly surprised by the variety of choice and the high quality goods on offer in the main shopping areas of the town.

Business is booming in Arklow in the run up to Christmas, and with just two weeks left until Christmas now is the time get out and get your shopping done locally.

Arklow has transformed itself in recent years and is now a vibrant shopping district that has plenty to offer to attract consumers from all over Wicklow.

If you haven't paid Arklow a visit lately, now is the perfect time and you will find yourself pleasantly surprised. The main area of the town stretches from the Wexford Road down the Main Street and across the Bridge to Ferrybank and the Bridgewater Shopping Centre where there is an abundance of new shops to cater to all your needs.



## Can Arklow defend the title of Ireland's most Christmassy home?

**Energia Ireland's ultimate Christmas competition, 'Ireland's Most Christmassy Home', returns to Wicklow for 2019. Now in its fourth year, the search is underway to find the best decorated home in Ireland during the festive season.**

More details on the competition are available at [www.energia.ie/imch-entries](http://www.energia.ie/imch-entries). Anthony Doyle from Arklow won last year's competition. Anthony donated half of his €3,000 prize to Arklow Community First Responders and the other half to Arklow RNLI.

This year's great prizes are donations of €3,000, €2,000 and €1,000 that will be awarded to the charity of choice for the first, second and third placed houses following a public vote.

Wicklow homes have until midnight on Sunday December 01st to capture a photo of their decorated home and submit it online. The Energia elves will then judge the most Christmassy homes and announce which six homes have made the shortlist on Monday 9th December. The voting will then open and the public will be able to choose their favourite festive house until midnight on Tuesday

December 17th. The winners will be announced at 2pm on Friday 20th December.

Since the competition launched, €18,000 has been donated to local charities throughout Ireland with previous winners coming from Wexford and Limerick and finalists from other

counties across the country. Charities that have benefited from the competition to date include the Wexford Hospice Homecare, Milford Hospice, Alzheimers Action Adare and Recovery Haven Tralee. Geoff Codd Head of Marketing and Retail Development, Energia

commented; "We are delighted to once again be launching the search for Ireland's Most Christmassy Home. Now in its fourth year, the competition is hugely successful and always receives incredible support from local communi-

ties throughout Ireland. Most importantly, the search for 'Ireland's Most Christmassy Home' raises vital funds for charities. This is always a special time of year and we can't wait to see what Wicklow entrants have in store for us this year."



Caoileann Murphy at the switching on of the Christmas lights in Arklow.



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Melata Praninskaite, Cara Mooney and Harry Mayhew at the switching on of the Christmas Lights in Newtownmountkennedy

## Greystones Art Group present cheque to Gavin Glynn Foundation



Pictured are Greystones Art Group committee members Breda Mathews, Goretti Murphy, Irene Dixon, John Glynn (Gavin Glynn Foundation), Deirdre Hannon and Sinead Wyse

Members of Greystones Art Group recently presented The Gavin Glynn Foundation with a cheque for €1,300. Each year the Art Group committee select a Charity of the Year and their main fundraising is done during their Annual Art Exhibition.

A spokesperson from Greystones Art Group said "We were absolutely delighted to present John Glynn, from The Gavin Glynn Foundation, with this cheque. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this fundraising. We wish John and his wife Jayne every success in continuing Gavin's legacy and with the incredible work they do for children and their families

around Ireland while they battle cancer."

Speaking at the cheque presentation John Glynn said "the Gavin Glynn currently receives no government funding and we vitally need funds that will go directly to helping the families and their kids. It's through the generosity of groups like Greystones Art Group organising fundraisers that allows us to continue the work that we do."

The Gavin Glynn Foundation believes that all children with cancer deserve the best care. They assist and arrange travel logistics in order to help reduce the burden and stress for families who need to travel for cancer treatments. This enables the families to focus their time and energy on their child and family.

## The Bray Camera Club announce 2020 photography exhibition

The members of Bray Camera Club are delighted to announce an exhibition of photographs coming to the Signal Arts Centre in January 2020.



Since its foundation in 1971, Bray Camera Club has provided a forum for its members (an eclectic mix of amateurs, professionals and competition prize-winners) to learn from and support one another in improving their photographic skills and developing their creativity.

The Club members use a variety of photography equipment to collect images - from mobile phones, to compact cameras and digital SLRs, to film and large format cameras. The Club's photo-

tography range incorporates all photographic disciplines: abstract, street, wildlife, landscape, studio, close-up and portrait photography are all explored.

Whenever the Club presents its work to the public, all members are encouraged to display the best of their photography and with a wide variety of photographic disciplines being showcased, this exhibition is sure to appeal to anyone with an interest in photography or even just a curious eye.

# Highlighting winter walking breaks in Glendalough to British walking enthusiasts

Tourism Ireland's latest campaign in Britain highlighted winter walking breaks in Wicklow and Ireland's Ancient East. It was multi-channel campaign which ran during the month of November, promoting a variety of our scenic trails and hikes.

The campaign involved a partnership with The Times and The Sunday Times, which reached 2.4 million British walking enthusiasts - through an article in The Sunday Times Magazine showcasing different walks in Ireland's Ancient East - including Glendalough.

It also involved activity with Berghaus - the well-known outdoor clothing and equipment brand - with articles about walking in Ireland on Berghaus.com, a competition to win a walking trip to Ireland and lots of social media activity targeting

Berghaus customers.

"Our latest campaign is promoting great off-season walking breaks in Glendalough and in Ireland's Ancient East," said Julie Wakley, Tourism Ireland's Head of Britain. "With walks, trails and hikes to suit every ability, we're reminding prospective British visitors that one of the best ways to truly appreciate our spectacular scenery is to explore it on foot. Our message is that walking in Ireland lets our visitors take in the sights, sounds and landscapes as nature intended: at their own pace. They can take their

pick from Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, national parks, serene beach walks and coastal trails or interesting historical sites."

Britain continues to be a very important market for tourism to the island of Ireland, delivering 42% of all overseas visitors and around 24% of all overseas tourism revenue.

Its contribution to the regional tourism economy and to season extension objectives are also significant, with 45% of British visitors arriving between October and March.

## Coming up at The Mermaid...

### Amazing Grace (Cert: G)

The never-before-seen movie featuring Aretha Franklin recording the most successful gospel album of all time, *Amazing Grace* screens in Mermaid on Friday 13th December at 8pm.

*Amazing Grace* is crafted from never-before-seen footage originally captured in 1972. Entering the venue unobtrusively, she smiles briefly, gathers herself for a moment and then starts to sing. Gently at first, but then ever more powerfully, her voice begins to carry the audience away into the infinity of paradise. In January 1972, Aretha Franklin made her legendary album 'Amazing Grace' with the Southern California Community Choir and Reverend James Cleveland in the New Temple Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles. At the height of her fame, she made the decision to return to where she began, to the world of gospel music.

The result is a concert film that celebrates human dignity and the longing for freedom and justice and is able to transcend nostalgia and intervene in discussions about the state of the modern world. It also provides ample evidence of the enduring charisma of this soul icon who died in August 2018. Tickets cost 8/6.50.

### Lyngo Theatre presents: Heart of Winter

Heart of Winter comes to Mermaid on Tuesday 17th December at 4pm and Wednesday 18th December at 10am. Christmas is coming and Sally can't sleep - it's far too hot! The weather has gone topsy-turvy. No-one can remember the last time it snowed, or even rained, and her father can't sell any of his umbrellas. To help her sleep Dad reads her a story about the last snowflake. That night Sally has a dream that changes everything - a mysterious silver spark transforms her bedroom into a glistening, white field where she meets the glowing heart of Winter. Tickets cost €10/8 (Family Ticket: €30). Age suitability: 3+. Duration: 1 hr

### Ballet Ireland in association with EY presents Swan Lake

Ballet Ireland bring *Swan Lake* to the Mermaid Arts Centre on Friday 20th and Saturday 21st at 7pm and Sunday 22nd December at 2.30pm.

This most famous of ballets combines romantic themes, classical technique and ethereal imagery, with Tchaikovsky's majestic score, to ensure this masterpiece's immortality.

This enduring story of love and tragedy, good and evil, and has enthralled audiences since it premiered in 1877. This autumn 22 leading professional dancers from Ireland and abroad will perform in this breath-taking production which was loved by audiences and critics when last produced by Ballet Ireland. Tickets cost €25/23 (Family Ticket: €84).

Tickets are available from box office on 01-2724030 and online at mermaidartscentre.ie



Jane Magan in Ballet Ireland's *Swan Lake*, coming soon to The Mermaid

# Christmas in RATHDRUM

## Shop local in Rathdrum this Christmas



Christmas has arrived in Rathdrum with the switching on of the Christmas lights and the Christmas festival last weekend.

Home to Charles Stewart Parnell, Rathdrum once was the county town of Wicklow and while it cannot compete on the size and scale front with Wicklow town any longer, Rathdrum definitely holds its own on the commercial front.

The former market town has a bustling main thoroughfare with a wide range of businesses and shops catering for everything.

Instead of battling through traffic to Dublin City Centre or trawling for parking elsewhere, why not consider getting away from the hustle and bustle and Christmas shopping in peaceful and beautiful surroundings this festive season.

The wide and varied commercial area of Rathdrum stretches along Main Street up many of the side streets and out to the ever growing industrial site which is home

to a host of retail outlets.

With beautiful scenery, good rail and bus links, great natural and built amenities in close proximity and a thriving commercial heart, is it any wonder that many people are opting to make Rathdrum their home.

Today there are more shops and businesses than ever before in Rathdrum catering to the burgeoning population, ensuring a wealth of choice whatever your needs. You're sure to find what you're looking for in Rathdrum.

So, whether you are looking for some great place to enjoy some of Wicklow's finest fare, want to pick up a special and unique present for a loved one this Christmas, or want to see what bargains you can pick up, a visit to Rathdrum would be well worth it.



## ISME urges people to Shop Local and Buy Irish this Christmas

With two weekends remaining before Christmas, ISME, the Irish SME Association is appealing to Irish consumers to make a concerted effort to 'shop local' and 'buy Irish' this Christmas.

Uncertain times lie ahead for Irish retailers with Brexit, and ISME encourages people to support indigenous business and SMEs.

Commenting on the importance of shopping local ISME CEO Neil McDonnell said "Every €10 spent locally on Irish products generates about €40 of onward benefit to the local community. The

retail sector employs more people than any other sector in our economy.

"Buying from locally owned businesses keeps money circulating closer to where you spend. Local shops use local services, accountants, insurance brokers, and suppliers, as well as employing local people and they also carry a higher percentage of locally produced goods.

"By shopping locally we support our towns and villages and keep our butchers, jewellers, pharmacies, brewers, distillers, confectioners, post offices, fashion, electronics and hardware stores, and all our local shopkeepers in business.

"Larger-online retailers pose a real threat to many of our local vendors. While online shopping is

a resource for many buyers, the importance of quality, traceability and value-for-money of Irish products shouldn't be forgotten.

"Supporting local business, even with just a portion of your Christmas spend, means you are supporting the 'home-grown' team and helping to keep the local economy moving. Buying locally means you will gift something unique, special, and more valued this Christmas."



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# President's Award winner from Wicklow celebrated

The President's Award held a special Civic Merit Award Ceremony, in recognition of 28 President's Award Leaders from all over Ireland who have supported young people to achieve their potential.

The Civic Merit Ceremony took place at Farnleigh House in the Phoenix Park, Dublin. Among those being presented with their Civic Merit Award was Denise Walsh from West Wicklow Youthreach - Blessington.

Gaisce's Civic Merit Award Ceremony honours President's Award Leaders

who have supported young people to take part in the Gaisce programme for more than five years. The ceremony was MC'd by Gold Awardee Jamie Moore and the guest speaker on the night was Irish sports commentator Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh. Speaking about the Civic Merit Awardees, Yvonne McKenna, CEO of Gaisce

- The President's Award said, "Five years is a big milestone, and the time and hours given by you all collectively is enormous. Incalculable, however, is the impact you have all had on the lives of young people in Ireland, an impact that will continue to be felt long after they have received their Gaisce award".

A special message from the President Michael D.

Higgins was read by Chair of Gaisce John Cunningham, "I thank you for the generous support you offer to the many young people who, every year, undertake the Gaisce journey.

"That is a greatly empowering journey on which you all play an important part, impacting positively on the development of so many of our younger citizens."



A special presentation was made last week to former councillors who lost their seat or who did not run in this year's local election. Pictured is Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Irene Winters and Chief Executive Frank Curran making a presentation to former Independent councillor Christopher Fox, with his wife Jackie.

## Doyle hosts Breakfast Briefing on Woodland Environmental Fund

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine recently showcased its new native woodland initiative to a packed audience of Irish business representatives at an event in Trinity College.

Interest amongst the business community was high, with representatives from hotel chains, high street retailers, local government, transport businesses, financial institutions and energy providers gathered to hear how the Woodland Environmental Fund (WEF) can support their environmental ambitions.

Andrew Doyle T.D., Minister of State with responsibility for Forestry opened the event, saying that "The WEF is my Department's response to growing demand from within the business community to become involved in native woodland establishment. The Department is the principal driver of afforestation in the country, having committed almost 500m of spending under the current Forestry Programme. The WEF creates an ideal platform for business to join with Government and landowners to plant native woodlands."

The WEF provides an access point for businesses to become associated with individual forests at their design stage allowing the business to report the estimated carbon emission reductions from the established forest against its footprint. In addition to capturing carbon these forests also provide rich and varied habitats for plants and animals as well as opportunities for recreation and water protection.

Minister Doyle closed the event by saying that "It is undeniable that forestry is the most effective land use option when it comes to capturing carbon, we simply cannot meet our emissions targets without planting more trees. The 8,000 hectare target set out in the Climate Action plan will require a national effort and my Department is committed to working with the business community, landowners and all groups in civil society to make this happen."



Minister of State Andrew Doyle with Alastair Blair, Country Managing Director for Accenture Ireland, at the launch of the Woodland Environmental Fund



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- Certificate in Introduction to Criminology and the Irish Justice System

- Certificate in Leadership and Change Management
- Certificate in Mental Health Awareness in Youth Work

- Diploma in Management Effectiveness and Practice

- Certificate in Caring for the Developing Child

- Certificate in Health, Wellbeing and Nutrition

- Certificate in Leading Contemporary and Quality Practice

- Certificate in Supervision Theory and Practice

- Certificate in Building Capacity and Enhancing Leadership in Intercultural Understanding and Diversity

##### Engineering

- Certificate in Health, Safety & Environmental Management

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# Bray's Dr Walsh presents research at climate conference

Dr Deirdre Walsh from Bray presented her research at the iCRAG2019 conference - 'Resources for a Sustainable Future', which took place in Dublin last week.



Dr Deirdre Walsh from Bray presented her research at iCRAG the SFI Research Centre for Applied Geosciences at the iCRAG2019 conference Resources for a Sustainable Future. Pic: Marc O'Sullivan.

Deirdre's research in University College Dublin focusses on creating 3D geological models of underground energy reservoirs as part of the green transition to a decarbonised economy.

The conference brought together 250 members of the academic geoscience community as well as industry and government to deliver insights into future directions for Irish geoscience research and how the geoscience research sector can play a leading role in addressing the Climate Action Plan and Ireland's commitments to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Deirdre graduated with a BA in Geology from Trinity College Dublin and an MSc in Petroleum Geoscience from UCS before joining iCRAG as a researcher in the iCRAG hydrocarbon area under the supervision of Dr Tom Manzocchi.

Speaking about how geoscience can help create a positive climate future,

Professor Mark Ferguson, Director General, Science Foundation Ireland and Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government of Ireland, said, "Geoscience underpins many of the changes that our society must make in the coming decades. The metals and minerals needed to create renewable technologies and batteries, the energy sources required for the green transition, and the management of water resources in a changing climate, all rely on geoscientific expertise. Through its targeted research programme, the iCRAG SFI Research Centre is well positioned to deliver economic and societal impact for Ireland across many areas of natural resources."

Keynote speakers at the iCRAG 2019: Resources for a Sustainable Future conference include Dr Elizabeth Eide, Director of Board on Earth Sciences and Resources and Water Science and Technology Board at the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.



Stephen Whelan of the Arklow Credit Union and Senior Head teacher Eleanor Kinsella present Ciaran Deay with the Arklow Credit Union Business Award at the Arklow C.B.S. Awards Night

# Parents want second school warden in Newtown

Minister Simon Harris has requested Wicklow County Council install a second School Warden on the school road in Newtownmountkennedy to ensure pupils and parents can cross the road safely.

Minister Harris said "The Newtownmountkennedy Primary School Parents Association have made a well thought out proposal for a second School Warden. With the opening of new housing and growing school enrolments the busy traffic in this location will increase. The Gardai support the parents' association proposal and have made their own submission to the council backing the need for a second school warden.

"The Parents Association are clear in stating there is a need for the existing school warden at its present location and that a second warden is required as the new pedestrian crossing provides inadequate traffic calming and management given how busy this road now is. The municipal district council is to discuss this and I hope the proposal from the Parents Association and the gardai will be acted on quickly."

# Norwegian reality show couple on 'dream date' in Wicklow

Images of Wicklow and Ireland were beamed into the homes of around 500,000 people in Norway last week when an episode of a reality dating TV show - filmed here this summer - aired on TV2, the largest commercial TV channel in Norway.

A TV crew - filming for a special Ireland episode of one of Norway's most popular TV programmes, called Jakten på kjærligheten (meaning 'The Farmer Wants a Wife') - was in Ireland in July, as guests of Tourism Ireland and Fáilte Ireland.

Jakten på kjærligheten is all about single farmers meeting a number of potential partners; then, the farmer and his 'favourite' partner go on a dream date to a foreign location - in this instance, Wicklow. It's one of the top reality TV shows in Norway, attracting about half a million viewers each week - with many

more fans chatting online about it.

Viewers saw the couple - Are Stifjell and Hanna Hovland - visiting the Wicklow Wolf Brewery and enjoying a picnic on the grounds of Powerscourt Estate. They also enjoyed an overnight stay the Glenview Hotel and Leisure Club.

Julie McLaughlin, Tourism Ireland's Manager for the Nordic Region, said: "Jakten på kjærligheten is really popular in Norway - so this was a fun and different way to showcase Wicklow and Ireland, and some of the many things to see and do here, to a huge audience of potential Norwegian holidaymakers. TV and film are strong influencers on prospective holiday-makers and Tourism Ireland regularly works with TV and production companies around the world, to facilitate the making of travel and lifestyle programmes and films around the island of Ireland. It's a really effective way to get positive exposure for the destination."



Reality TV show contestants Stifjell (second left) and Hanna Hovland (fourth left) during filming at the Wicklow Wolf Brewery in Bray; also pictured are Ole Andreas Grøntvedt, cameraman; Peter Reynier, Wicklow Wolf Brewing Company; Togeir Lindblad, crew member; Niamh Walsh, Tourism Ireland; Meena Rathore, crew member; and Andre Johansen, sound.



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**BALLYCOOG NATIONAL SCHOOL RUNNING TRACK OFFICIALLY OPENED**

Last Friday Minister Simon Harris TD joined Michelle Claffey, Irish international rugby player, Mary Hickey who ran the circumference of Ireland for the RNLI and teachers and students of Ballycoog National School to open their new running track. Minister Harris said "I am honoured to be invited to Ballycoog NS to open their new running track. It is great to see how a community like Ballycoog works together to deliver such an amenity. In particular I would like to pay tribute to Mr Byrne and his team at the school who worked so hard to bring this project to fruition securing funding for this amenity along with the Ballycoog Development Association and Ballycoog ICA"

# 'A real Christmas Tree is the natural choice'

Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine, Andrew Doyle T.D. urged people to buy a real Irish Christmas tree this year as he visited Wicklow Way Christmas Tree Farm run by the Kinlan family.

Around 650,000 Irish Christmas trees are harvested each year with 450,000 sold at home and about 200,000 exported abroad, mainly to the UK, France and Germany. The industry contributes 25 million to the Irish economy.

With 7-10 years of work going into producing a good quality Christmas tree, the Minister outlined "the quality of Christmas trees produced in Ireland has increased significantly in recent years. This improvement is due to increased expertise being employed to manage and prepare trees for more discerning customers. The improvement has also been facilitated by my

Department's Scheme of Investment Aid for the Development of the Commercial Horticulture Sector and I encourage Christmas tree growers to consider applying for the 2020 Scheme".

The Scheme assists growers who wish to make capital investments in specialised equipment to manage and harvest the crop. Popular investments under the Scheme include specialised tree pruners, tree netters and palletisers which protect quality and allow for efficient transport. The Scheme is now open and details of the scheme can be found here or from Horticulture and Plant Health Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the

Marine, Administration Building, Backweston Campus, Young's Cross, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, W23 X3PH Tel: 01 5058886.

The closing date for receipt of applications for the 2020 scheme is 17 January 2020.

The Minister concluded by saying "A real tree provides a better Christmas experience in the home, is more environmentally friendly, has a lower carbon footprint than an artificial tree and people who buy an Irish tree are supporting jobs in rural Ireland. A real tree is the natural choice."

The Kinlan family of Roundwood own and have been running the Wicklow Way Christmas

Tree Farm for over 30 years. Former sheep farmer Seamus Kinlan created the business by planting marginal land with Christmas trees as a way to diversify his farming enterprise.

Today, Seamus' son Tony manages the company although Seamus is still 'the man on the ground' and carries out the day-to-day tasks in running the farm. Together they manage their 12 Ha Christmas tree farm in which they are growing 40,000 noble fir and Nordmann fir trees.

Most of these trees are sold through retail sites to the Dublin market, but they also export trees to France, Germany and the Netherlands.

## Why not take a short Certificate course at IT Carlow?

Thinking of upskilling, career advancement, a change of career or contemplating a return to education...If so - why not sample one of short Certificate courses at the Institute of Technology Carlow's Wicklow Campus, Rathnew, from January 2020.

These Certificate courses are being offered in Business, Humanities, Engineering, PR & Media, Digital Media and Entrepreneurship.

They range in duration of delivery from a few days to 1 -2 evenings per week over 13 weeks, covering a range of Awards from level 6-9 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Each short Certificate course is a stand - alone award and is 10-30 Credits, but also forms part of a full 60 credit course within each discipline.

So why not try one of these short Certificate courses in areas such as, Data Protection, Management Effectiveness, Leadership and Change Management, Mental Health Awareness in Youth Work, Challenging Behaviour, Web Design and Digital Media.

Other Certificate courses on offer at the Wicklow Campus in January 2020, include, Certificates in Health Wellbeing & Nutrition, Family Support, Project Management, Professional Report Writing, Organisational Psychology, Supervision Theory and Practice and Enhancing Leadership in Intercultural Understanding & Diversity.

So why not book your place on a course that interests you by contacting the Wicklow Campus directly on 059 917 5850 or 0404 67125, email wicklow@itcarlow.ie or check www.itcarlow.ie/LLL for further information.



Tony Kinlan and Seamus Kinlan with Minister Andrew Doyle.

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# Blessington woman appeals for support for families living in war zones

Last week the Irish overseas development agency Trócaire launched its Christmas Appeal with an urgent call from local Blessington woman Jenny Foley for people in county Wicklow to support innocent families who are caught up in wars and conflicts around the world.

"Where Trócaire works, millions of people have known nothing but war and have lived through constant conflict since they were born" according to Jenny. "Trócaire is working to protect them and keep them safe. We are asking the public to support us and make sure these innocent people aren't forgotten this Christmas." This Christmas marks

the 50th anniversary of John Lennon and Yoko Ono's iconic War is Over 'peace' campaign. Trócaire has reimagined the campaign with a 2019 'War Is Over Christmas appeal' supporting families who are living in war zones around the world.

According to Jenny from Trócaire, families fleeing conflict urgently need food, shelter and healthcare this Christmas in many of the countries where Trócaire works. "Millions of children around the world have known nothing but conflict in their lives. Their lives are on hold because they are living in war zones. It seems that in many cases the world has forgotten these children. This Christmas we want them to know that we haven't forgotten them," she said.

"The figures are frightening" said Jenny. "In Syria, Somalia and Gaza

alone, where Trócaire works, an estimated 19 million people have known nothing but war - children have lived in conflict zones since they were born.

"Donating to Trócaire's Christmas appeal will help people born into some of the longest-running conflicts in the world.

"We are grateful and thankful for the support we receive from the people in many of the countries where Trócaire works. Their support directly impacts families and communities around the world and that is why it is so vital this Christmas."

According to Trócaire, the agency will deliver food, shelter, medicine and protection to innocent people living in warzones around the world thanks to the donations it receives this Christmas. More information is available from [www.trocaire.org](http://www.trocaire.org) or by calling 1850 408 408.



Ben Foley from Blessington and Abbie Dolan from Enfield laughing Troaire's Christmas Campaign



Elsie and Geraldine Weller with Baileigh O'Connor at the switching on of the Christmas lights in Arklow.

## PLANNING

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Stanford Woods Healthcare Ltd seeks Permission for the development which will comprise a predominantly two-storey residential care building with an attic plant room and storage area. The gross floor area will be 12,067 m<sup>2</sup>, of which 5,575 m<sup>2</sup> is at ground floor level; 5,377 m<sup>2</sup> is at first floor; and a further 1,115 m<sup>2</sup> is at attic floor level. The accommodation will comprise ensuite bedrooms, day spaces, balconies at upper floor level and ancillary sanitary accommodation for residents with support services such as recreation/activity rooms, physiotherapy suite, treatment and occupational therapy rooms, Oratory, Daycare and hairdressing. It will include a facility run café (open to the public), administration offices; staff rest, dining, changing and training facilities; catering kitchens, laundry, plant room, maintenance workshop and electrical switch room; a substation and standby generator. The site will be fully landscaped with provision of sensory gardens and walkways including gazebo features and mounded screen planting 1.2 m above finished ground level. Employee, service and visitor car and covered cycle parking will be provided. The existing site entrance from the L1043 will be improved and, with a driveway, provide the primary access. The existing access from the L5406 will be improved to provide a recreational and emergency gated access from/to Willowgrove. The development will connect to the existing water supply infrastructure in the area. The development will connect to a proposed pumping station and rising main south of the site. This in turn will discharge foul effluent from the site at Killickabawn, Kilpedder, Delgany, Co. Wicklow into the Greystones Delgany Killoole public district sewerage system. 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

H.T. Carroll Limited seeks Planning Permission for amendments to the previously granted Planning Permission No. 181229 to include: revised layout of a 1 Bedroom Apartment Unit on each level (2 in total) with private open space to the rear of each, demolition of existing rear sheds and construction of a new ground floor rear extension of 3.5sqm, with a new facade to Albert Avenue, revised roof profile, fenestration front and rear, and associated site and landscape works, all at 2A Albert House, Albert Avenue, Bray, 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

S K Design (0402 94680) seeks full planning permission on behalf of Amy Heffernan & Robert Newsome for change of house plans and site plan previously granted under planning ref: 16/904 and also the provision of a detached garage at Cronawinnia, Aughrim, 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

FULL PLANNING PERMISSION Sought for:  
1. Proposed Ground & First Floor Extension (129 Msq) to Rear of Existing Dwelling 'Inverness', Existing Dwelling 'Inverness' (123Msq).  
2. All ancillary site works at 'Inverness', 21, Putland Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow. A98 X2F4. Signed Jason Cooke & Katrina Farrelly Cooke. 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

T. & C. Horan seek permission for construction of 4 new terraced dwellings, works will include the closure of the existing vehicular entrance on the R761 and the provision of a new entrance onto The Grove to access the proposed development, upgrade works to the junction of The Grove and R761 to include for the provision of a pedestrian footpath, connection to public services, together with all associated site works, 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

WicklowProject: Joe Phelan invites expressions of interest from parties interested in Tendering for the construction of 7 Farm Holiday Cottages on his K2Alpaca Stud Farm, Callow Hill Upper, Co. Wicklow A63 DX08, complete with all associated works, demolitions, electrical+mechanical subcontracts, services, site works and wastewater treatment system etc. Parties may express an interest in any part or the whole of the project. Tender Documents will be available from the 10th December with a closing date for Tenders being the 14th January 2020. Phone contact: 087 2427859. Expressions of interest may be emailed to [johnphelanarchitect@gmail.com](mailto:johnphelanarchitect@gmail.com) or posted to the project address stating your interest in part or the whole of the project. Joe Phelan reserves the right to select any or all applicants or to personally invite additional selected applicants as necessary

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I James Cullen intend to apply for permission for the construction of a new dwelling, wastewater treatment unit & polishing filter, connection to mains water services, entrance onto public road from existing entrance and associate works at Brockagh, Laragh, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Council Buildings, Wicklow Town, during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee within 5 weeks from submission of application to Planning Authority.

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I Kathryn Byrne intend to apply for permission for the construction of a new dwelling, wastewater treatment unit & polishing filter, new well, new entrance onto public road and associate works at Glenacoria, Moneystown, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Council Buildings, Wicklow Town, during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee within 5 weeks from submission of application to Planning Authority.

### THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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

## Bray Library events

Forthcoming events in Bray Library, Eglinton Road, Bray, are the Friday December 13th 11.30am talk by James Scannell, Bray Cualann Historical Society, recalling 'Christmas 1919 in Bray, Co. Wicklow' - admission free - no booking required; and the Saturday December 14th 'Wreath Making Demonstration' with Aoife Munn, at which participants will learn how to make beautiful Scandinavian style wreaths from everyday plants that are all around us. Participants will take their wreaths home - admission free but booking required - call 01-2862600 or email: [braylib@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:braylib@wicklowcoco.ie). It's Storytime' takes place every Monday, except Bank Holiday Mondays, at 10am.

## Roundwood Variety Show

The Brockagh Resource Centre will be hosting the ever entertaining and talented Roundwood Variety Show performers again next year at the end of January 2020 with Robin Hood, The Magical Pantomime Adventure. Details will be posted at [www.facebook.com/brockaghresourcecentre/](http://www.facebook.com/brockaghresourcecentre/) and on [www.brockaghresourcecentre.ie](http://www.brockaghresourcecentre.ie) when more information is available.

## Glendalough Christmas Market & Santa

This year's Brockagh Resource Centre popular Christmas Market is on Sunday, 15th of December. Santa has confirmed his arrival for the 15th of Dec and with a small entrance fee he can be visited in his grotto from 1pm. There are over 50 Stalls and entertainment from carol singers, making it the perfect place to do a spot of Christmas shopping. Stallholders will be selling homemade baking, Christmas decorations, handcrafted jewellery, pure honey, jams, selection of candles, knits, knitted toys, woodcrafts, photography, ceramics, aromatherapy jewellery, artwork, clothes, Christmas wreaths, and natural body care products. With so many local makers and designers showcasing their gifts, you can tick off everything on your Christmas list all in one place and feel reassured that you're supporting your local community. Throughout the Market, you'll find tasty foods to satisfy any appetite. Parking and entry to market is free. Contact Michelle on 0404 45600 or email [brockaghoffice@gmail.com](mailto:brockaghoffice@gmail.com) for further enquiries.

## Wicklow Lions annual collection

Wicklow Lions Club members will be very visible from December 13th-15th for the annual collection at the local SuperValu store in Wicklow town when the local people show their continued support for the community through the local Lions Club especially at this vital time of the year for so many. The president and members of Wicklow Lions Club are always very grateful for the support they receive from not only the people of Wicklow town but from everyone in the surrounding district which is covered by the Lions Club. The night was for Wicklow ICA and St.Pat's Juveniles.

# CLASSIFIED ADS & PLANNING / APPOINTMENTS

CALL 01 2869111 EMAIL: [jennie@localtimes.ie](mailto:jennie@localtimes.ie)

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



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**NEW**

**NEW**

**NEW**

**NEW**

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