



GAISCE AWARD page 4



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COMMODORE MALONE page 17

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# PURPLE HOUSE'S NEW HOME ROW

Fianna Fáil's Health spokesperson Stephen Donnelly has warned the Health Minister, Simon Harris not to break the promise he made to help move Bray's Purple House Cancer Support Centre into a new home.

The warning comes after he attacked Minister Harris twice last week, in the Dáil and at the quarterly Oireachtas Health Committee meeting, accusing him of having broken his promise to Purple House to help them buy a premises in Bray.

Purple House Cancer Support provides a range of professional support services to people of all ages affected by Cancer. Their aim is to help rebuild the lives of families affected by Cancer.

Founded in 1990, Purple House was the first Community based Cancer Support Centre in Ireland and today operates a busy

range of support services from Purple House at Aubrey Court, Parnell Road, Bray, as well as Cancer Support Groups in the LexIcon Library in Dun Laoghaire.

The professional services on offer include counselling, complimentary therapies, bereavement counselling, services for children & young adults including creative arts and one to one support, CLIMB programme for children, camps & workshops for children, health awareness programmes, citizen information advice, Flood Cloud meal distribution, Purple House Choir, classes in Yoga and

Mindfulness, and CheckMeOut.ie health awareness campaigns aimed at 18-30 year olds.

Purple House claim to be funded almost entirely by voluntary donations.

Deputy Donnelly said, "What Purple House desperately requires is a new premises to help it grow and continue to provide the life-changing service it offers. Luckily it has already found a great new base that could be used. There's one catch though - Purple House needs government funding to make that move. And in spite of promises made, Fine Gael seems to be trying to kick the can down the road.



2019 president of Network Ireland Wicklow Nicola Donegan hands over her role to incoming 2020 President Dawn Leane at the Network Ireland Wicklow 3rd annual members Christmas party in the Druid's Glen Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy

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"I've been told that the Health Minister has twice met with the Purple House team about their accommodation and both times he swore that he would help them with a new home. Sadly, the HSE wrote to purple House this week to say that it can't guarantee funding next year.

"I want to call directly on the Health Minister to stay true to his word. I would ask Minister Harris not to backtrack on his promise to help, as he currently appears to be doing."

At the Oireachtas Health Committee Meeting Donnelly claimed that Purple House had informed him that over a number of meetings Minister Harris had indicated that he would look at granting them €450,000 rather than the €700,000 they were seeking but that this was reduced down to €150,000 and even this

now was in doubt in a letter Purple House received. He said there was a great urgency as the house had gone 'sale agreed' for circa €1.3 million. Speaking at the Oireachtas Health Committee Minister Harris said: "I know Purple House very, very well. I also know all the other cancer support groups right across our county very well. I also know in my time as Minister for Health, the level of funding to Purple House has increased significantly. In fact, it has increased by €100,000 per annum since I became Minister for Health, they now receive funding of €175,000, more than other kind of similar support group in the county.

"But for capital expenditure there is a process you need to go through. I believe funding can be provided and I have (continued on page 3)

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Pictured at the switching on of the Christmas lights in Tinahely last weekend were Roisin Kennedy, Niamh Kennedy, Cillian Coughlan, Emma Coughlan, Aine Whelan, and Ronan Dunne

### Glendalough Christmas walk

Take part in a gentle stroll of one to one and a half hours at 11am on Sunday 22nd December and explore the symbols of Christmas, from robins and wrens, to holly and ivy and the tradition of the Christmas tree. You will also learn some tales of Christmas past in Glendalough! Meet at the Information Office, Upper Lake, Glendalough. Booking is essential. To book and for more information, call 0404-45425.

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### Dunganstown Parishes Christmas services

The Dunganstown Union of Parishes church services for the Christmas season are as follows:

Carol services will take place on Friday 20th December at St Kevin's Church, Dunganstown at 8pm, Sunday 22nd December at Holy Trinity, Redcross at 4.30pm and St Bartholomew's, Canary 22nd December at 7.30pm.

On Christmas Day masses will take place at St Bartholomew's, Canary at 9am, St Kevin's, Dunganstown at 10am and Holy Trinity, Redcross at 11am.

### Old Greystones Social Night

This event takes place in The Hot Spot Music Venue (above the Beach House, Greystones), on Saturday 28th December, 8pm 'til late.

Anyone who grew up in or lived in the Greystones area in the '70s, '80s or '90s is more than welcome to come along and catch up with friends from the past.

Bring along copies of any old photos of Greystones people and places for display on the photo board.

Call Declan Cox on 086 8219471 to find out more.

### Greystones Carols

Come and sing Christmas carols in the Holy Rosary Church in Greystones on Thursday 19th December at 8pm. There will be mulled wine and mince pies. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### Date changed for Carols by Candlelight

This event is now on  
Tuesday 17th December  
at 7.30 pm.

"We will begin with a candlelit procession through the monastic gates of Glendalough and proceed to the ruins of the cathedral for an evening of traditional carol singing in the monastic style. Some of our most familiar carols would have been sung here by the monks of Glendalough themselves in the 8th and 9th centuries.

This event is free and open to everyone; however, children must be accompanied by an adult. Assemble in the Glendalough Hotel car park at 7.15 pm.

## Newtown Tidy Towns elect new committee

Newtown Tidy Towns recently held its AGM and a new committee and Chairperson were duly elected.

Paul Kavanagh handed over the chair to Siobhan O'Hanlon. Paul has given nearly 20 years of commitment to this community in his role as Chairperson, and has overseen many improvements to the town and its environs over those years.

As Vice Chairperson, he is still very much involved in the Tidy Towns projects.

Newly elected Chairperson, Siobhan O'Hanlon, originally a resident of Greystones, is now an enthusiastic and committed Newtownmountkennedy resident, and is leading the Tidy Towns organisation onward and upward, to new goals.

Siobhan is ably assisted by her newly elected Committee members, as follows: Paul Kavanagh (Vice Chairperson), Anna Kalinina (Secretary), Annick Bishop (Asst. Secretary), Marie O'Neill (Treasurer), Anne Martin (Asst. Treasurer).

The Tidy Towns 2020 calendar is now on sale in Eugene's Grocery Store, the new Kava Cafe on the Main Street, The Coffee Place (adjacent to Dunne's Stores) and at the Post Office in Newtownmountkennedy."

## BirdWatch Ireland Wicklow branch events

January 2020:

Tuesday 14th: "Ireland Through Birds" by Conor W. O'Brien. An accomplished birder, photographer and now author, Conor will take us on an avian adventure around Ireland in search of twelve of our most elusive birds. Glenview Hotel, 8pm.

Saturday 25th: Outing to Wexford Wildfowl Reserve. Meet at Wexford Wildlife Reserve at 10.30am. Car-pool from Greystones Park and Ride at 8.30am (contact [birdwatchwicklow@gmail.com](mailto:birdwatchwicklow@gmail.com) if you need a lift).

February 2020:

Tuesday 11th: "Dippers, fishers, goosers and wags" - birds of the Avonmore River Catchment: a presentation by Oran O'Sullivan. Glenview Hotel at 20:00.

Saturday 15th: Wicklow Bird Race

Saturday 22nd: Joint outing to Altamont Gardens with the Carlow Branch. Meet at Altamont Gardens at 10.30am. Car-pool from Greystones Park and Ride at 8.30am (contact [birdwatchwicklow@gmail.com](mailto:birdwatchwicklow@gmail.com) if you need a lift). Note there is a €3 entrance fee per person.

## 'One Book, One Community' launched at BAP lunch

The tenth annual One Book, One Community literacy initiative was launched at Bray Area Partnership's recent Community Lunch in Bray - the chosen book for 2020 is Greta's Story by Valentina Camerini, which tells the inspiring story of 'the schoolgirl who went on strike to save the planet'.

The idea of One Book, One Community is that children and young people in local schools all read the same book, and then take part in reading and creating story packs with parents, and fun events such as a community quiz. Each participant gets a copy of the book to take home for family reading and resource packs are also available. The initiative is run by Home School Community

Liaison Officers in Ravenswell NS, St. Kilian's CS, Newtownmountkennedy NS, St. Peter's NS and St. Fergal's NS, with the sponsorship and support of Bray Area Partnership, Bray Adult Learning Centre and St. Kilian's JCSP Library.

The theme of the BAP Community Lunch this year was Children, Young People and Families and the more than 100 people

who attended also got the chance to browse stands from community groups and services that offer supports in these areas.

Bray Area Partnership Community Lunches provide a chance for people from local communities, community groups, agencies and elected representatives from the Bray and Greystones areas to network and create links that lead to more effective social inclusion work.

This work is funded under Bray Area Partnership's Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022, which is funded by the Irish Government, through the Department of Rural and Community Development and co-funded by the European Social Fund under the Programme for Employment, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020.



Pictured at the launch of the 'One Book, One Community' literacy initiative in Little Flower Hall in Bray were Patrick Kinsella, St. Peter's Primary School; Kate Breen, Ravenswell Primary School; Izzy Fox, St. Kilian's Community School; Mairead Stewart, St. Fergal's National School; Jennifer D'Arcy, Bray Area Partnership; Chris Stokes, St. Kilian's JCSP Library.

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# 'We don't need more lanes in N11 Improvement Scheme'

In a submission to the public consultation on the N11/M11 Improvement Scheme, Friends of the Irish Environment (FIE) claim the proposal undermines the 'Climate Action Plan 2019' requirement for a 'deep level of collaboration across government'. Public consultation on the scheme closed last Friday. Meanwhile, the NTA has agreed to look into the possibility of turning the N11's hard shoulder into a dedicated bus corridor.

FIE Director, Judy Osborne has written that "What is required is an integrated plan to consider how to move people and goods along the east coast. This problem cannot be resolved satisfactorily by independent agencies each working on separate briefs but requires a 'deep level of collaboration across government', as promised in the 'Climate Action Plan 2019'."

FIE cites Transport Infrastructure Ireland's submission that "a major problem with the process is the failure to include and consider a full range of options."

Ms Osborne says this 'widespread issue' is exemplified by Patrick Ledwidge's Independent Inspector's Report on the Draft "Ministerial Direction on Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly". "It was his recommendation the failure to integrate a number of different plans and strategies should be referred to the Planning Regulator's Office."

The submission claims that "The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) failed to consider and report on all the alternative options, including meeting transport needs through accelerated public transport investment and non-road-

based options."

FIE points out that "The scheme even failed to identify the carbon emissions resulting from the final proposals. The EIAR must include an estimate of the total kilometres driven, which cannot exceed 2009 levels without breaking commitments in the Smarter Travel Policy."

"We note with concern", the FIE submission concluded, "that neither the Service Agreement nor the Climate Constraints listed in the project brief refer in any way to the likely level of increased carbon emissions or total kilometres travelled."

Speaking last week, Minister Simon Harris said "The overwhelming response from residents and commuters is that merely widening the M11/N11 or building a parallel road will only be as temporary fix for the Dublin-Wexford road as was the case when the M11 was built 20 years ago. Before routes are selected Wicklow residents and commuters want to know the exact capacity of park and ride facilities and dedicated bus services are required to entice as many people as possible out of their cars onto public transport."

"I am supporting calls for the route to be future proofed with extensive park and ride facilities

and frequent enough public transport at the right price point. We are now in the midst of a climate crisis and Wicklow people are well aware that the solutions of 20 years ago in terms of road design and reliance on single occupancy vehicles for the majority of commuters is no longer sustainable. It is regrettable that the NTA maps with five alternate routes have caused such distress. I have had to make a number of enquiries on behalf of distressed home owners as to whether their home or street is to be bulldozed for a new motorway. I have asked the NTA for more detail on the route options and adequate information to ensure families are not caused unnecessary distress".

Cllr Derek Mitchell stated "It is essential that the rail line carries more traffic and an express bus service is provided on the N11 using bus lanes. This will reduce the scale of the. Express buses are needed at rush hour together with Park n' Ride including a means to get to the many jobs around the M50. Many more 133, Wexford Bus & 84x are needed as well as a route around the M50.

"I have seen photomontages of flyovers over Delgany which I would not be in favour

of. I would hope that a bus lane on the existing N11 South of the Glenview would be all that is needed together with the public transport improvements mentioned. North of Kilmacanoge more lanes seem needed together with improved junctions and some bus priority."

Cllr Jennifer Whitmore said "The recent proposals to upgrade the N11 have caused considerable concern to local residents. I personally do not believe that there is any point in building or creating a new road to be used for cars, as it will fill up as quickly as it is built and we will be back at square one in no time. Any upgrades must place the availability of fast, efficient, regular public transport at the centre of the proposals and the Government must provide the investment required to enable that."

"It's very simple. We just need a frequent and reliable bus service. That combined with initiatives such as Park 'n Rides and carpooling sites, bus and carpooling lanes, bendy buses that can take 120 passengers at a time or a zipper lane (that moves lanes and provides an extra lane according to which direction the peak flow is going), could help hugely in the case of the N11."



Pictured at the switching on of the Christmas lights in Tinahely last weekend were Rebecca Murphy and Betty Hedderman

## St. David's new buildings to go to tender

Minister Simon Harris TD says he was delighted to learn that St David's second level has been granted permission to go to tender in respect of their new school buildings. Minister Harris has also made a submission to the Department of Education in support of the parents of St Andrews National School in Bray regarding the capacity issues in Temple Carrig.

Speaking last week he said "This week has demonstrated the government's commitment to delivering for Wicklow in respect of Education. The announcement of the patron of the new second level school to open in Greystones does not remove the need for St David's to be modernised and expanded. Greystones has seen the opening of other new second level schools and it is only right that St David's be modernised in line with best architectural and modern design".

Regarding St. Andrew's he said "I have outlined to the Department of Education how Temple Carrig requires additional capacity to cater for St Andrew's pupils as well as their existing students. The announcement of the new second level school to open in Greystones does not remove the need for additional capacity in Temple Carrig. They are amenable to enrolling St Andrew's students but cannot do so until they have sufficient capacity."

"St Andrew's parents can be assured of my full support. Greystones secondary schools are receiving significant investment with St David's new buildings going to tender and the new second level to open in September. The expansion of Temple Carrig is an essential part of this."

## PURPLE HOUSE'S NEW HOME ROW

(continued from page 1)

engaged with my Secretary General on this matter. The letter that was shared yesterday was in an effort to be helpful with Purple House and to provide some very useful information in relation to the next steps that need to be taken. So, my message to you, Deputy Donnelly and to Purple House is to work together to make progress but there are rules. There are processes and there are procedures and they all need to be followed. There are procurement rules and governance rules. You simply can't point to a house and say 'I want that.' Surveys need to be done, valuations need to be got, we are dealing with public funds here."

Speaking to *Wicklow Times* last week the HSE said 'Purple House Cancer Support receives grant aid funding from the HSE. In 2019 this was for €175,000. A formal capital submission for capital grants in 2020 has not been made by Purple House Cancer Support.' They also confirmed that a business plan had been provided by Purple House but they had sought addition information which as yet had not been supplied.

Also speaking to *Wicklow Times* last week Conor O'Leary of Purple House said they submitted their business plan last August and had made a formal Capital Application to the HSE and had been assured that they would be considered for funding in 2020 but this had not been forwarded to the Department.

They had originally sought 50% funding of the €1.3 million purchase price but were given cast iron promises of €150,000. They are putting up €700,000 from their own reserves.

They urgently need this bigger building as they have outgrown their present building and their lease is up, although it is believed the landlord is agreeable to enter a new 5 year lease.

The new building is ideally located, a hundred metres from the dart, has parking and a garden; with 14 large meeting rooms in excellent decorative order and needs only very minor structural changes such as the installation of ramps.

Located at Number 2 Duncairn Terrace and built in 1859 at the height of the town's building boom following the construction of the railway linking Dublin to Bray, this three-story over basement property is in excellent condition throughout and retains most of its original features. There are a total of 14 offices, most of them exceptionally large. Arranged across four floors, many of the offices enjoy views on to attractive lawned gardens to the front and rear.

Further accommodation includes kitchen/canteen facilities, storage, hallways, landings and stairs, and separate men's and women's toilets located on the second and basement floors. Two of the offices also serve as IT/telecommunications rooms.

To the rear, an expansive and light-filled modern, two-story extension has added over 1,400 square feet of additional space at basement and ground floor level.

Outside, there is substantial secure parking to the rear, safeguarded by an electrically-powered security gate. There are well-tended lawned gardens to both front and rear, attractively set off by mature shrubs and flowering trees.



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Gaye Godkin, Mick O'Callaghan and Eoylin Kinsella at the Wicklow Retired Teachers Association AGM in Tinakilly House, Rathnew

## Petition calls for reinstatement of bus service to Fassaroe

Bray Sinn Féin have submitted a petition with over 190 signatures, along with their own submission, to BusConnects, calling for the new bus plans to include a service to the Fassaroe estate.

Deputy John Brady said "For many years the people of Fassaroe estate relied heavily on the 185 bus which serviced the estate and connected its residents to the wider town of Bray. The withdrawal of this service in recent years has had a very negative impact on the people who relied on it.

"We recently held a public meeting in the area and the residents told us of their particular concern for the aging population of the estate who used the bus frequently. The new proposed BusConnects routes do not include a service to Fassaroe estate. Sinn Féin has campaigned for a new loop service for the town, this has now been included in the BusConnects plan. A new 214 service has been proposed. It will operate between the Southern Cross and Palermo via the Seafront. This new route is welcome, however we believe that it should be extended to take in the Fassaroe area."

Cllr Grace McManus said "There is a large population in Fassaroe estate who without a bus service are at real risk of social isolation and disconnect. Many have no way to get to the local shops, doctors and other services. This petition has shown the extent of the need, and for a public bus service I believe it is important that community requests of this size are respected.

Cllr Dermot O'Brien added "it's clear the people of Fassaroe know what they need, and this is a unique opportunity to raise awareness and bring attention to that need. The voice of the community need to be heard loud and clear, and the bus re-instated for the benefit of all."

## Bray girl honoured at Gaisce Gold Ceremony

On Wednesday 4th December, more than 30,000 hours of commitment and dedication by young people was recognised at a special ceremony held by Gaisce - The President's Award in Dublin Castle. Patron of Gaisce and President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, presented 77 inspirational young people from across Ireland with their prestigious Gaisce Gold Awards.

One such Awardee was Ciara O'Brien, who hails from Bray. Ciara completed her Award with Loreto Secondary School. The ceremony was MC'd by the inspirational Sinéad Burke, teacher, writer, broadcaster, fashion-admirer and advocate for disability.

Since his first inauguration in 2011, President Higgins has been a strong supporter of the Gaisce programme. As part of his focus on active citizenship and the promotion of a more inclusive society, the President has paid tribute to Gaisce Awardees for their community work and their support for civil society groups.

The President has also praised the President's Award Leaders, who he said play a pivotal role in guiding the young people in the development of their talents and encouraging them to contribute to the betterment of society.

Gaisce - The President's Award is a self-development programme for young people between the ages of 15-25, which is proven to enhance confidence and wellbeing through partici-

pation in personal, physical, community and team challenges. It is a direct challenge from the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, to all young people to dream big and realise their potential.

Speaking about the Gaisce Gold ceremony Yvonne McKenna, Chief Executive of Gaisce - The President's Award said, "I heartily congratulate this year's Gold Awardees who have shown incredible fortitude in achieving their Gaisce Gold Award. Achieving a Gaisce Award is a marker of each Awardee's determination to realise their ambitions.

"I hope that in the challenging times which life can often present, they are encouraged by the memory of this moment where all their endeavours were recognised and celebrated. There is a lot more in each of us than one might think."

She continued, "I'm particularly delighted to see that we have a record number of young people from Northern Ireland receiving a Gaisce Gold Award today as part of

the Joint Award Initiative. It's wonderful to see that young people from Northern Ireland have such a strong connection with The President's Award and continue to use its structure as a means of personal development.

"I would also like to applaud all of the President's Award Leaders who mentored the young people through their journey and to this

special day."

This year's Awardees hail from 17 counties and 42 Gaisce Award Partners (who deliver the Award programme). Since its inception in 1985, over 190,000 young Irish people have received a Gaisce Award, including former Rose of Tralee/Irish MEP Maria Walsh and Irish rugby international and Connacht player Robbie Henshaw.



Ciara O'Brien from Bray collecting her Gaisce Gold Award from President Michael D. Higgins

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# 'Wicklow water 'at risk'

The Water Quality report published by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) last week contained mixed news for County Wicklow. The report covers the period 2013-2018.

The report found that two sections of the Avoca River are severely polluted, as a result of untreated sewage being released into the river due to a lack of a wastewater treatment plant and the mining which took place in the past.

The Dargle River was classed as being 'at risk'. According to the report, water bodies identified as being 'at risk' are in danger of not achieving their water quality objectives due to the damage being caused by significant pressures. The report states that "the main significant pressures impacting water quality include agriculture, waste water discharges, impacts to the physical habitat conditions including excess fine sediment (hydromorphology), and pressures from forestry activities."

Overall, the water quality of 11 Wicklow rivers declined, while over a third of rivers were classed as 'unsatisfactory'. There was no change in 69 rivers while there was improvement in 23 rivers. A section of the Avonbeg River was deemed 'poor', as was a section of Rathnew



Cllr Steven Matthews

stream and Newtownmountkennedy stream. Among the cleanest rivers and streams in Wicklow were Glencullen, Slaney, Avonmore, and Redcross.

Reacting to the report, Green Party Spokesperson on Water, Cllr Steven Matthews said "In my own locality it is hugely disappointing to see so many water bodies from the River Dargle to the River Avoca being classified as 'At Risk' and to see that many have reduced ecological status since the last EPA report. There is no doubt that we are in a time of unprecedented environmental degradation and this latest water report proves that it

applies to our water environment too."

He continued: "The continued degradation of our natural water resources as published in the latest EPA study on water quality is of huge concern and we are completely failing to halt this decline. Sewage waste water discharges to water bodies and dispersed agricultural run-off have for many years been the two main sources of water pollution in Ireland. The nutrient loading in waste water treatment plant discharges and agricultural slurry and fertiliser run off is consistently damaging our water quality. We see this in algal blooms and de oxygenation of the water which destroys many species that maintain water ecosystems in good order.

"This latest study shows clearly that we are not only failing to improve our water quality as obliged under EU directives we are actually going in the opposite direction with declines in quality becoming the normal pattern. The environmental decline in our delicate eco systems must stop and be reversed, however I have no confidence in current Government policies

around maintenance and investment in waste water treatment plants or intensive agricultural practices which create more agricultural run-off.

"Our forestry practices are also impacting on water quality through acidification and organic run off. It is of concern for human health too as many of our rivers are the source for drinking water treatment plants and we have also seen how organic loading in those supplies can cause the formation of carcinogenic THM (Trihalomethane) and high levels of nitrates which can create breathing difficulties for babies."

In the Avoca estuary



Stephen Donnelly TD



Members of the Wicklow Retired Teachers Association are pictured at their recent AGM in Tinakilly House, Rathnew.

there were found to be high levels of 'ubiquitous substances' such as copper, zinc and cadmium in the water. The Glenealo river near Glendalough was also found to have high levels of Cadmium.

Reacting to the report's findings, Fianna Fail Health Spokesperson Stephen Donnelly TD said it must be used as a 'wake-up call' for the government.

Deputy Donnelly explained, "There's not only one, but two sections of the Avoca which are severely dirty. The river suffered greatly in the past from the local

mines, but since their closure in the 1980s the damage has continued - this time from untreated sewage being pumped into the water in the absence of a proper treatment plant.

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

shows that shockingly just 20 of Ireland's rivers are 'pristine', down from 500 in 1980s.

"Irish Water has acknowledged that discharging untreated wastewater in Arklow is totally unacceptable and has promised to fix this problem with the help of Wicklow County Council.

"But what we need now is action not words. We urgently need work to begin on the new Wastewater Treatment Plant in the area. We also need to see the installation of a pipe to safely discharge the treated wastewater

to the Irish Sea and we need new sewer pipes along the North and South Quays to bring the untreated wastewater to the sewage plant.

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

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There was plenty of festive cheer at Wicklow RNLB Lifeboat Station on Saturday 7th December with the arrival of Father Christmas for his annual visit.

Many of the volunteer crew's children gathered on the East pier to greet Santa as he arrived for the first time on the Shannon class all-weather lifeboat RNLB Jock and Annie Slater, which replaced the Annie Blaker in April. Father Christmas then made his way into the Station where he handed out presents to everyone. Pictured is three-year-old Jordann in lifeboat kit with Coxswain Nick Keogh, Brendan Kavanagh and Tommy MacAulay at the East pier.

## Friends of the Murrough to disband unless Chair and secretary positions are filled

The Friends of The Murrough group in Wicklow Town have said that they will be forced to disband the volunteer organisation unless they are able to fill the positions of Chairperson and Secretary.

In a Facebook post last week, the group made an urgent appeal for volunteers to fill the roles. They stated: "Friends of the Murrough held their AGM on November 25th. The chairperson and secretary indicated that they are no longer willing to serve in these positions, although they are prepared to remain involved in the organisation and support new committee members. No attendees volunteered for the committee.

"A decision was taken that the officers would remain in place until January when a further public meeting will be called. If no volunteers come forward Friends of the Murrough will have to cease as an organisation and will be formally wound up. We would be very sad if Wicklow Town lost this particular community voice."

The Friends of the Murrough organisation was formed to preserve and improve access to the coastal walks in Wicklow Town and to create new recreational amenities for the public.



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# Glen of the Downs an accident blackspot, Garda figures show

Figures from the Gardai show that 24 accidents have taken place in the Glen of the Downs since January 2018. John Brady TD has called for immediate emergency safety work to take place to address the serious safety issues that exist in the area.

Deputy Brady said "Over the last 2 years I have been in contact with many people who have had accidents in the Glen of the Downs. I recently received a report from the Gardai that outlines that since January last year there have been 24 reported accidents in the Glen of the Downs, 13 of those reported accidents took place this year alone. I have also spoken to a number of motorists who have lost control of

their vehicles when they hit water that runs across the road in the Glen but managed to regain control before they crashed. There is clearly a serious problem in the Glen of the Downs with drainage and immediate action needs to be taken to address the accident blackspot.

Deputy Brady continued "Over the last 2 years I have been raising these serious problems with

Infrastructure Ireland and unfortunately nothing has happened to address the issue. Obviously, the primary concern is the safety of the motorists, there is also the issue of when an accident happens the entire N11 comes to a standstill."

Deputy Brady concluded "I have been told that addressing the drainage issue would be looked at as part of the N11/M11 Improvement

Scheme; however, that is not expected to commence until 2027 at the earliest. The reason I have been given is that a permission would be needed to go ahead and carry out the works and that it could be seen as project splitting. Road safety cannot be put on the long finger. Immediate action must be taken by Transport Infrastructure Ireland to deal with this accident black spot."

## Network Ireland Wicklow hosts a night of festive cheer

Network Ireland Wicklow had a lot to celebrate at their 3rd annual members Christmas party which took place in the Druid's Glenn Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy on December 6th.

Before commencing the festivities, the AGM took place where the 2020 committee were officially elected and this year's 2019 president Nicola Donegan handed over her role to incoming 2020 President Dawn Leane.

Reflecting on her year as 2019 president, Nicola Donegan said "I have been truly honoured to represent the inspiring, authentic and professional women of Wicklow. I have thoroughly enjoyed every moment of my Wicklow Presidency and my 12 month journey. It provides a golden opportunity to learn more about yourself personally, professionally and to connect with other incredible women. I now hand over my President Chain to our 2020 President, Dawn Leane, extremely happy that we have another wonderful year ahead for our valued members. Thank you to everyone who helped, supported and encouraged me along this journey. Here's to 2020!"

Newly appointed President, Dawn Leane continued; "We are looking forward to a strong line up of events and speakers in 2020, providing members with opportunities to develop their skills, showcase their business and, of course, network with other professional women. Our membership continues to grow throughout the county and our Businesswoman of the Year Awards will take place again in May, with local win-

ners going on to the National Competition in October."

On the night, the Network Ireland Wicklow also celebrated the return of the National Executive to Wicklow as Louisa Meehan takes over as National Network Ireland President for 2020, bringing a considerable spotlight to Wicklow for the coming 12 months.

Speaking ahead of the night, Louisa Meehan said "It is very exciting bringing the Network Ireland national focus back to Co. Wicklow for 2020. This will provide an opportunity for the members within the Network Ireland Wicklow branch to showcase the best that the county has to offer. Our International Women's Day lunch is taking place on February 28th in Tulfarris, Blessington with the national conference and gala dinner on October 2nd in Powerscourt."

If you would like to join a growing group of tenacious, dynamic, ambitious women in business who lead, support and collaborate, visit [www.networkireland.ie/new-member-sign-up](http://www.networkireland.ie/new-member-sign-up)

Established in 1983, Network Ireland now has over 1,200 members across fifteen branches around Ireland. Members come from all areas of the business community, those running their own businesses, both large and small and those working for corporate and small businesses. Each year they organise over 200 events for members. They also run a number of flagship national events, including an International Women's Day Celebration and the Annual Conference and Business Awards. In Wicklow, they welcome all to join them at their two monthly events, an evening event with guest speaker and an informal networking breakfast meeting.



Members of Network Ireland Wicklow at their Christmas Party in the Druids Glenn Hotel

# GREEN CHRISTMAS

## RECYCLING IN DECEMBER/JANUARY

**WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Race Against Waste**

**Repak**

MEMBERS SUPPORTING THE RACE AGAINST WASTE

### CHRISTMAS TREE SHREDDING JANUARY 2020

Bring your Christmas Tree to any of the collection points below. They will be shredded, composted and used again!

**No wreaths, plastic trees or decorations please.**

	LOCATION	TIME	DATE
Arklow	Arklow Recycling Centre, Croghan Industrial Estate	Mon-Thur: 9.00am-4.30pm Fri: 9.00am-3.30pm Sat: 9.30am-1.45pm	3rd -18th January
Aughrim	Tidy Towns Pavillion	Mon-Sat: 9.00am-4.00pm	3rd -18th January
Avoca	Avoca Recycling Centre	Mon-Thurs: 9.00am-4.30pm Fri: 9.00am-3.30pm Sat: 9.30am-1.30pm Closed for lunch 1.00- 2.00pm every day.	3rd -18th January
Baltinglass	Rampere Landfill & Recycling Centre	Mon-Thur: 8.30am-4.00pm Fri: 8.30am-3.30pm Sat: 8.30am-1.00pm	3rd -18th January
Blessington	County Council Yard, Naas Road	Mon to Fri: 10.00am-4.00pm	3rd -18th January
Bray	Bray Recycling Centre, Beechwood Close, Boghall Road	Mon-Fri: 9.00am-4.00pm Sat: 9.30am-1pm	3rd -18th January
Bray	Festina Lente Foundation, Old Connaught Avenue	10am-4pm Daily	3rd -18th January Donations in aid of Festina Lente
Greystones	Carpark in front of the Wicklow County Council Offices on Mill Road opposite the bottle banks	This sit is monitored by CCTV Only Christmas Trees accepted	3rd -18th January
Hollywood	Church Carpark, Hollywood	10.00am -12.00 midday	11th January Donations in aid of Tidy Towns
Wicklow	The Murrough Recycling Centre, Wicklow	Mon-Thur: 9.00am-4.00pm Fri: 9.00am-1.00pm Sat: 9.30am -1pm	3rd -18th January
Wicklow	Green King, Coolbeg (road opp. Beehive)	Mon-Fri: 8am-5.30pm. Sat: 9am - 1pm	3rd -18th January

### COUNTY WICKLOW RECYCLING CENTRES

#### Christmas Opening & Closing Times

Location	Day	Time
Arklow	Monday 23rd Dec	Closed
	Christmas Eve	Closed
	Christmas Day	Closed
	St. Stephens Day	Closed
	Friday 27th Dec	Closed
	Saturday 28th Dec	9am-1.45pm
	Sunday 29th Dec	Closed
	Monday 30th Dec	Closed
	New Year's Eve	Closed
	New Year's Day	Closed
Avoca	Monday 23rd Dec	Closed
	Christmas Eve	Closed
	Christmas Day	Closed
	St. Stephens Day	Closed
	Friday 27th Dec	Closed
	Saturday 28th Dec	Closed
	Sunday 29th Dec	Closed
	Monday 30th Dec	Closed
	New Year's Eve	Closed
	New Year's Day	Closed
Bray	Monday 23rd Dec	9am-1.45pm
	Christmas Eve	Closed
	Christmas Day	Closed
	St. Stephens Day	Closed
	Friday 27th Dec	9am-1.45pm
	Saturday 28th Dec	9am-1.45pm
	Sunday 29th Dec	Closed
	Monday 30th Dec	9am-1.45pm
	New Year's Eve	Closed
	New Year's Day	Closed
The Murrough	Monday 23rd Dec	9am-1.45pm
	Christmas Eve	Closed
	Christmas Day	Closed
	St. Stephens Day	Closed
	Friday 27th Dec	Closed
	Saturday 28th Dec	9am-1.45pm
	Sunday 29th Dec	Closed
	Monday 30th Dec	9am-1.45pm
	New Year's Eve	9am-1.45pm
	New Year's Day	Closed
Rampere Baltinglass	Monday 23rd Dec	8.30am-4pm
	Christmas Eve	Closed
	Christmas Day	Closed
	St. Stephens Day	Closed
	Friday 27th Dec	Closed
	Saturday 28th Dec	8.30am-1pm
	Sunday 29th Dec	Closed
	Monday 30th Dec	8.30am-4pm
	New Year's Eve	8.30am-1pm
	New Year's Day	Closed

### Stop Food Waste for Christmas

One third of the food we buy goes into the bin with twice as much waste over Christmas. Try to plan your shopping better, store the food more carefully, cook a bit less for the main meal and parties and save the leftovers by freezing. All help to reduce food waste.

Check out the 12 days of Christmas recipe book for leftovers on [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie) or ask for a copy from [eao@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:eao@wicklowcoco.ie) or **Locall 1890 222276**

For more tips on avoiding food waste visit [www.stopfoodwaste.ie](http://www.stopfoodwaste.ie)

Composting at home is great for the environment but don't forget to ask your bin collector to provide you with a brown bin for food waste which will result in lower bin charges.

### Illegal Waste Collection

Beware of unauthorised waste collectors operating in the County Wicklow area.

Only give your waste to Collectors who have a valid Waste Collection Permit. Always ask to see the Waste Collection Permit. Always note the Waste Collection Number on the Waste Collection Permit.

The Waste Collection Permit will display the Waste Collector's Name, Address and Waste Collection Permit Number. The vehicle should clearly show the Name of the Waste Collection Permit Holder and the Waste Collection Permit number.

Wicklow County Council  
County Buildings, Whitegates, Wicklow Town  
Phone: 0404-20160  
Fax: 0404-57792

Sonraí Teaghmhála  
Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin  
Arao an Chontae, Na Geataí Bána, Cill Mhantáin

Do you know where your rubbish goes with non permit holders?

NWCPO/YR/NUMBER should be on the van

**It is a criminal offence to give waste to a unauthorised collector. Penalties upon conviction can be up to €5,000 and/or 12 months imprisonment**

**Report any information you have on illegal dumping to Litterline, 1890 548837 or 0404-20127**

### WHAT GOES IN THE GREEN BIN?

Free talks available from the recycling ambassadors programme by VOICE. For Details See [www.voiceireland.org/general-news/voice-launches-nationwide-recycling-and-waste-management-workshops/](http://www.voiceireland.org/general-news/voice-launches-nationwide-recycling-and-waste-management-workshops/)

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and Gorey 053 942 2352

# Green Party demand action on promised new Bray school

Green Party deputy leader Catherine Martin TD, with councillors Steven Matthews and Lourda Scott met last week with North Wicklow Educate Together in Bray to discuss the lack of progress and co-operation from the Department of Education in delivering their new school.

Speaking after the meeting Cllr Matthews said, "The students, parents and staff of North Wicklow Educate Together secondary school have been very poorly treated by the Department of Education and their progress in delivering the new school has been slow and frustrating. I have written to the last two Ministers for Education on several occasions to request bet-

ter communication and support and urgency in delivering their commitment to construct a new school for Educate Together. The current school location is temporary and the facilities are not suitable and are denying the students access to the full range of educational opportunities that Educate Together can and want to provide." Councillor Scott com-

mented, "In particular NWETSS provide a valuable ASD unit in their resource centre for children with autism. this unit is currently full and they cannot open an additional class until they move to a permanent premises. families in the area, with children with autism are desperate for more educational support and unfortunately cannot be accommodated until this issue is resolved." Speaking after the visiting the school, Deputy leader of the Green Party Catherine Martin said, "I recently met with the Minister to demand action on their 2016 commitment to construct the new school, to finalise design plans and proceed to a planning application to Wicklow County Council. We are waiting for a response."



NWETSS principal Jonathan Browner with Cllr Steven Matthews, Green Party deputy leader Catherine Martin TD, and Cllr Lourda Scott

## Wicklow Cancer Support to benefit from Remembrance Tree

For the thirteenth successive year, Rotary Club of Wicklow has erected its Remembrance Tree in the Church Street car park in Wicklow town.

"The Remembrance Tree is a popular meeting place leading up to Christmas where Wicklow people and visitors to the town are encouraged to sign the Book of Remembrance and write a message to remember departed loved ones or friends while donations are accepted to fund Wicklow Cancer Support," said Pat Kerr, chairman of the Remembrance Tree Committee.

"Wicklow Rotary has provided over 600,000 to local and international health, charitable and educational projects since it was founded in 1988 and the Remembrance Tree is an important element of this fundraising," said Donal Magner, president of Wicklow Rotary. "This year, the main beneficiary will be Wicklow Cancer Support, whose volunteers will also help us in fund raising," he said. "It is our way of acknowledging the important voluntary work carried out by this charity."

Up until Christmas eve, the Remembrance Tree will be manned by members of Wicklow Rotary, representatives of Wicklow Cancer Support and other supporters. "We in Rotary would be delighted to meet the public and discuss our activities which involve funding charities in Wicklow and abroad as well as supporting youth group initiatives in the community," said Peter Byrne, member of the Remembrance Tree committee. The Rotary Club of Wicklow is part of a worldwide association whose motto is 'Service above Self'. Club members use their professional skills and expertise in volunteer work in the community and overseas. The Remembrance Tree is an important event in the club's annual programme, which supports local and international charities including a major solar lighting project in Kenya as well as funding Polio Plus which has eradicated polio in 123 out of 125 countries since the 1980s.

However, most of Rotary's work is community based including two projects aimed at young people - the Youth Leadership Development Competition and Foróige - the Way Project. The Youth Leadership project rewards young people in the Wicklow area with clear leadership potential based on their extra-curricular activities while the Way Project supports youths at the opposite end of the educational and social spectrum who have problems with mental health, substance abuse and other social and domestic issues.



Rotary members Peter Byrne, Mike Connolly, Andy Bolger and Brian O'Leary

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Pictured at the Santa Dash at the Murrough in aid of St. Patrick's National School were Anne, Ciara, Serena and Ruby Dover



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

### MOTOR TAX OFFICES WICKLOW, BRAY & BLESSINGTON

**Wicklow Motor Tax Office** will close to the public on Monday, 23rd December 2019 at 3.30pm. The office will re-open on Monday, 30th December 2019 at 9.00am. Wicklow Motor Tax will open on Tuesday, 31st December 2019 for a half day (closing at 12.30pm). This closure is necessary to facilitate the completion of End of Year Financial Reports on the National Vehicle Driver File System.

Normal office hours (9.00am to 3.30pm) will resume on Thursday, 2nd January 2020.

**Bray Motor Tax Office** will close to the public on Thursday, 19th December 2019 at 2.00pm and re-open on Tuesday, 31st December 2019 at 10.30am for a half day (closing at 12.30pm). This closure is necessary to facilitate the completion of End of Year Financial Reports on the National Vehicle Driver File System.

Normal office hours (10.30am to 2.00pm) will resume on Thursday, 2nd January 2020.

**Blessington Motor Tax Office** will close to the public on Tuesday, 17th December 2019 at 3.30pm and re-open on Tuesday, 31st December 2019 at 9.00am for a half day (closing at 12.30pm). This closure is necessary to facilitate the completion of End of Year Financial Reports on the National Vehicle Driver File System.

Normal office hours (9.00am to 12.30pm & 2.00pm to 3.30pm) will resume on Tuesday, 7th January 2020.

Wicklow County Council regrets any inconvenience caused.

### REVENUE SECTION

The Revenue Section of Wicklow County Council will close to the public at 3.30pm on Friday the 20th, Monday the 23rd, Monday the 30th and Tuesday the 31st December 2019.

This closure is necessary to facilitate the completion of End of Year Financial Reports.

Please note that the offices will be closed entirely on the 24th and 27th of December.

Normal office hours will resume on Thursday the 2nd of January 2020.

Wicklow County Council regrets any inconvenience caused.

# 'New Maternity Hospital must be free from religious ethos'

Fears that Wicklow women may not receive the maternal healthcare they need at the proposed new National Maternity Hospital at St. Vincents Hospital was the main topic of discussion at the meeting held by Social Democrats Candidate for Wicklow, Cllr. Jennifer Whitmore, last week in Bray.

The meeting "Church or State - the National Maternity Hospital" heard from speakers Dr. Peter Boylan and Roisín Shortall TD, both of whom have campaigned strongly in this area for many years in an effort to ensure that clinical independence at the hospital was guaranteed. Speaking at the event, Cllr Whitmore said "This new and badly needed hospital will be fully publicly funded - it now looks like it could cost up to €500m. It must be in public ownership and control and must have a secular ethos where all legally available fertility and gynaecological treatments are readily available without limitation. "Since the announcement that the new National Maternity Hospital was to be co-located with St. Vincents Hospital, there has been much concern regarding the governance of the hospital and whether the involve-

ment of the Sisters of Charity could undermine the clinical independence of the hospital. Despite the many assurances from Government and the Church over the last number of years that there will be no religious involvement in the running of the hospital, this does not appear to be borne out by facts and we are now in a situation where we are awaiting approval from the Vatican to hand-over the land for the hospital to be built on, before the project can begin. "At the meeting last night, Dr. Peter Boylan, former Master of the current NMH, spoke strongly about the fact that the Vatican have never in their history alienated or handed over any of their land to facilitate procedures that would inherently go against the teachings of the Church, such as termination of pregnancy or birth control. He said he could not see if hap-

pening at St. Vincent's and that it's time to begin looking for a Plan B for the proposed hospital. Roisín Shortall TD, Co-Leader of the Social Democrats, spoke of her concerns that about the proposed governance structure recommended by the Mulvey Report. Minister for Health Simon Harris confirmed again to her that this governance structure would be followed by the new hospital.

However, Shortall emphasised that this structure would do little to ensure independence, and creates huge uncertainty for women needing the hospital's services. She also raised the fact that the Government has recently spent €43m on enabling works at the hospital despite having no ownership of the site. Cllr Whitmore said "Many people have taken Minister Harris

and this Government at their word that the issue of governance has been resolved. This is simply not the case and we run the risk of a deal being done that will mean that generations of women will not get the maternal healthcare they need and their treatments may instead be influenced by religious ethos. This is not acceptable. We have one chance to this right," concluded Cllr Whitmore.



Dr. Peter Boylan and Roisín Shortall TD with Cllr Jennifer Whitmore at the meeting in Bray last week.

## Rathdrum named Regional Runner up at National Enterprise Town Awards

Rathdrum was announced as a Regional Runner Up in its size category at this year's National Enterprise Town Awards, receiving a framed certificate and cash prize of €2,000.

The annual Bank of Ireland National Enterprise Town Awards brings business, community groups and local authorities together, in each town, to showcase the spirit of enterprise in their local area. Since the inaugural awards in 2016, towns and urban villages across the country have shared more than 500,000 in funding to invest in their community.

Kilkenny was the overall national winner and Ireland's most enterprising town for 2019 while Castlebar was declared the Rising Star of this year's awards.

The gala awards ceremony took place in the Lyrath Hotel, Kilkenny on Thursday 5th December. The Rathdrum submission was led by a small group of local representatives who were supported by Wicklow County Council and Arklow Municipal District. The very best

of what Rathdrum has to offer was showcased to a panel of judges.

Centra hosted the presentation event where Denis Carter from Avon Motors; Michael Tierney from Tierney's Pharmacy; Liam Kinsella from Rathdrum Tidy Towns, Bernard McQuaid from Little Dinners and Karen Kennedy, the community representative, all spoke about what the town has to offer.

A number of videos featuring local businesses and community groups were also shown showcasing Rathdrum at its best. The judges then took a tour of the town and included visits to Comerfords Drapery, Hidden Valley and Zoetis.

Cllr Pat Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach, Arklow Municipal District, who was delighted to attend the Awards ceremony, said: "This is a great

achievement for Rathdrum to be recognised as a runner-up at the Enterprising Town Awards for 2019. Rathdrum was spoken highly of on the night, and a great effort was put in by the committee and council officials".

Cllr Pat Kennedy, who is a member of the committee, stated "This is a huge honour for Rathdrum and follows on from the success of winning the Pride of Place award in 2018. I would like to extend a huge thank you to the committee, the business community, community groups, Wicklow County Council and Arklow Municipal District for all their work and effort to make this possible. It is great to see a competition that brings the community groups and the business together. Well done to all".



Pictured representing Rathdrum at the 2019 Bank of Ireland National Enterprise Town Awards are Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald, Cllr. Pat Kennedy, Christine Flood, Claire Lawless, Denis Carter, Karen Kennedy, Sean Kearns, Susan Nichols and Thomas Murphy with Méabh Litton, Bank of Ireland, Maria Coleman, Head of County Wicklow for Bank of Ireland and Ian McMorrough, Provincial Director, Bank of Ireland

# Stay safe this Christmas

It's the most wonderful time of the year! With all the fun and festivities come opportunities to spend time with family and get out and about and enjoy all Wicklow has to offer. It's important to think ahead and with advice from emergency organisations and personnel you can ensure you have the safest possible Christmas and take precautions where needed.

## In the Home

Fire and electricity are everywhere at Christmas, whether it be the lights on the tree or elsewhere in the house or outside the house, and the lighting of fires and candles for those cosy Christmas nights in.

Wicklow's Fire Service has the following advice for preventing fires: "Remember most fires in home start in the living room and bedroom at night when we are sleeping. Always use a proper fitting spark-guard in front of open fires especially when you are going out of going to bed. Don't use an open fire to air clothes as this is a major fire risk. Clean your chimney. Don't store items like papers, magazines, clothing or combustible items near a fire. Be Careful how you dispose of hot ashes. Don't place them in a plastic bin. Never leave lit candles unattended and ensure candles are in proper holders. Position candles away from draughts. Ensure candles are not near items that may catch fire such as curtains. Avoid moving a lit candle. Ensure all candles are properly extinguished before you leave the room."

"Also, remember before you go to bed to ensure spark guards are in front of open fires. Switch off and unplug all electrical items,

"Don't overload sockets or use of double adapters. If electrical cables or plugs are damaged, worn or frayed, contact an electrician."

ESB Networks is reminding all electricity customers to never take risks with electricity during this festive period: "As always, never use ESB poles to hang outdoor Christmas lights as the electricity wires overhead are live and extremely dangerous. In putting up outdoor Christmas lights and decorations, it is important to first check that there are no overhead wires nearby. You must always keep a safe distance because electricity is very powerful and can jump gaps. Make sure outdoor wiring and lights, etc are properly rated for outdoor use and plug them into a portable Residual Current Device (RCD,

sometimes called a 'trip switch') for extra safety.

"Around the home, make sure your own electrical equipment is in good condition.

Also, at this time of year storms and strong winds can cause damage to electricity wires and poles, bringing the wires to the ground so always be alert and keep your distance. Remember fallen electricity wires are live and therefore dangerous to approach. Report any damage immediately by contacting the ESB Networks' emergency number: Phone 1850 372 999/021 238 2410 (24 hour/7 days)."

Here are a few important safety tips from ESB Networks:

"Electrical safety tips for the home: 1. Only use electrical equipment (including Christmas lights) that's in good condition. 2. Check for frayed wires, loose connections, damaged or cracked plugs, any signs of discoloration. Disconnect immediately and replace. It is always safer to disconnect remotely at the distribution board. 3. Reduce the chances of causing a fire and keep decorations and combustible materials well away from light fittings and other sources of heat such as heaters, fireplaces, candles. Remember electrical equipment can get hot and cause a fire, too. 4. Switch off all electrical appliances, including Christmas lights, and phone chargers last thing at night and when leaving the house. 5. Always unwind extension leads completely to avoid overheating and don't overload sockets with adaptors or extension blocks. 6. Test your Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms to ensure they are working. 7. Check that the Residual Current Device works by pushing the test button. 8. Always consult a registered electrical contractor; Information at [www.safe-electric.ie](http://www.safe-electric.ie)."

## In the Hills

Many people take to the hills and mountains for walks over the Christmas period, and if we are lucky enough to have snow then Wicklow is sure to get its share of

snow tourists too.

Dublin Wicklow Mountain Rescue Team has issued advice for staying safe. John Kavanagh, PRO, DWMRT says "wrap up well; the higher you go, the colder and windier it gets, but remember that you'll warm up with exercise. Lots of thin layers are better than one thick layer, as you can add or remove them easily to balance your temperature. Bring a waterproof jacket and trousers even if the forecast is dry, the weather can change quickly in the hills. It's better to have them and not use them, than get caught out by a sudden shower. Carry some spare warm layers in case you get unexpectedly delayed. A survival bag - a large, orange plastic bag which can be purchased in most good outdoor shops - is a very useful addition to your kit. It's a good idea to carry some spare food too - chocolate, nuts, dried fruit, or jellies are good choices. Don't get cold; hypothermia is dangerous, but avoidable. Put on an extra layer when you stop for a break, and try to stay out of the wind. If you, or one of your party, is cold the best remedy is to eat something sugary and get moving. Warm drinks are helpful, but to stay warm you must keep moving. If you need assistance, call 999 or 112 and ask for mountain rescue. Emergency calls (999/112) use any network available to your phone, not just the one you're on, so you should be able to make an emergency call if your phone has no coverage. If you find that you're still unable to make an emergency call, consider sending a member of your group to higher ground to pick up a better signal. You should be careful not to put anyone at risk by asking them to climb to higher ground.

"Our advice is to stay away from untreated, particularly upland, roads in winter conditions. If you must drive, there are some precautions that should be taken. First, both the driver and the vehicle should be able to cope with the conditions; winter tyres, a snow shovel, and snow chains are essential. Next, con-

sider the 'what-ifs'. How will you stay warm and comfortable if you get stranded? A little preparation can make an unexpected delay much more bearable. Extra insulation, such as sleeping bags, jackets, warm boots, and blankets for each person should be carried. A flashlight and spare batteries are always useful. You should also pack a snack - dried fruit and nuts are ideal - and a hot drink in a flask. Should you find yourself in difficulty in the mountains, dial 999 or 112 and ask for An Garda Síochána and tell them that you need mountain rescue."

## In the Water

Irish Water Safety is concerned that many people planning to take part in sponsored Christmas and New Year swims may take chances beyond what is acceptably safe and are cautioning the public to minimise the length of time they remain in water due to the risk of hypothermia as water temperature is approximately 11° Celsius at sea and 5° Celsius in freshwater.

"Take great care walking down slipways, jetties, piers and over rocks as they may be slippery and cause you to fall. Swimmers should "Get In, Get Out and Warm Up", avoiding extended periods of exposure. Before entering the water throw some water down the back of your neck to allow your body prepare for cold water immersion. Alcohol should be avoided before swimming as it impairs judgment and increases the risk of cold water immersion and hypothermia. Ensure that you have safe access and egress with appropriate shallow shelving, steps or ladders. Christmas Swim organisers should ensure that they provide comprehensive details of each event to the Irish Coast Guard and local Gardaí. Ensure that you have lifeguards for the event and adequate safety cover depending on numbers in regard to rescue boards, kayaks, surf skis and safety boats. Check with the Safety Officer, who will advise and has the ultimate responsibility for making decisions."



Leaders and co-ordinators in food networks from across the country, including Wicklow, last week participated in a Fáilte Ireland training workshop 'Building World Class Networks' in the Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise on Thursday 12th December. The workshop was part of a support series developed by Fáilte Ireland with a focus on helping to build world class robust food networks and to develop visitor experiences to increase the saleability of their destination. Pictured at the workshop were: Eleanore McGillie, Birnie Consulting, Pamela Walsh, Wicklow Way Wines; Fiona Moore, Fáilte Ireland; Annette Rowsome, Wicklow County Council and Owen Lucas, Wicklow Food and Drink Partnership.

## Coming up at Mermaid...

### The Grinch (Cert:G)

The Grinch screens in Mermaid on Wednesday 18th December at 7pm. Based on Dr. Seuss' beloved holiday classic, the Grinch tells the story of a cynical grump who goes on a mission to steal Christmas, only to have his heart changed by a young girl's generous holiday spirit. Funny, heartwarming and visually stunning, it's a universal story about the spirit of Christmas and the indomitable power of optimism. Tickets cost €8/6.50.

### Gremlins (Cert: 12A)

Classic creature comedy horror Gremlins screens in Mermaid on Monday 23rd December at 7pm. When Billy Peltzer (Zach Gilligan) is given the cute and friendly little Mogwai, Gizmo (voiced by Howie Mandel), for Christmas, he is told never to expose it to bright light, get it wet or ever feed it after midnight. But one night when a glass of water is accidentally spilled over little Gizmo, Billy soon finds out why he was told to follow this advice as Gizmo begins to convulse, producing five new Mogwai. As Billy and his science teacher, Mr. Hanson (Glynn Turman), then seek to find out more about the creatures, a series of events lead to the escape of a number of them; and due to their heightened intelligence they know exactly how to replicate themselves. Soon after, the town is overrun by a new breed of Mogwai - the 'Gremlins' - who are menacing little reptilian creatures, and far from friendly. Directed by Joe Dante and produced by Steven Spielberg. Tickets cost €8/6.50.

### The Nutcracker and the Four Realms (Cert: PG)

The Nutcracker and the Four Realms screens in Mermaid on Thursday 19th December at 7pm. All Clara (Mackenzie Foy) wants is a key - a one-of-a-kind key that will unlock a box that holds a priceless gift from her late mother. A golden thread, presented to her at godfather Drosselmeyer's (Morgan Freeman) annual holiday party, leads her to the coveted key-which promptly disappears into a strange and mysterious parallel world. It's there that Clara encounters a soldier named Phillip (Jayden Fowora-Knight), a gang of mice and the regents who preside over three Realms: Land of Snowflakes, Land of Flowers and Land of Sweets. Clara and Phillip must brave the ominous Fourth Realm, home to the tyrant Mother Ginger (Helen Mirren), to retrieve Clara's key and hopefully return harmony to the unstable world. Starring Keira Knightley as the Sugar Plum Fairy and featuring a special performance by Misty Copeland, Disney's new holiday feature film "The Nutcracker and the Four Realms" is directed by Lasse Hallström and inspired by E.T.A. Hoffmann's classic tale. Tickets cost €8/6.50.

Tickets available online at [mermaidartscentre.ie](http://mermaidartscentre.ie) and box office on 01-2724030.



The Nutcracker and the Four Realms screens in Mermaid on Thursday 19th December

# Season's Greetings

## from your Local Representatives



**FINE GAEL**  
**Cllr Irene Winters**  
 Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council  
 Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year



23 Wicklow Heights Court, Wicklow Town  
 087 244 3610 | IWinters@wicklowcoco.ie

John  
**BRADY TD**  
 Nollaig Shona agus Athbhláin Faoi Mhaise



**Sinn Féin**

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 \* Accessibility needs accommodated by request.

Sinn Féin Office  
 18a Upper Main, Street, Arklow Tel: 0402-41853  
 Tues-Thurs 10am-3pm

Email: john.brady@oireachtas.ie

**Stephen Donnelly**  
 Working for Wicklow

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

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Get in Touch:  
 Ph: (01) 201 7300  
 El: Stephen.Donnelly@Oireachtas.ie  
 Twitter: @DonnellyStephen  
 Facebook: /Donnelly for Wicklow

[www.stephendonnelly.ie](http://www.stephendonnelly.ie)

**FIANNA Fáil**  
 THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

**Councillor Edward Timmins**

Wishing everyone in County Wicklow a very Happy Christmas



**FINE GAEL**

# Season's Greetings

## from your Local Representatives



**CLLR Gerry O'Neill**



**Independent**

Chairman of Baltinglass Municipal Electoral Area

*Happy Christmas & New Year to all*

**Ph.: 087 2629129**

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Main Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow

✉ **WEST WICKLOW & EAST CARLOW:**  
Suite 4, The Civic Building  
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☎ **NORTH WICKLOW:** (01) 281 3727

☎ **WEST WICKLOW & EAST CARLOW:**  
(045) 85 16 16

@ [simon.harris@oireachtas.ie](mailto:simon.harris@oireachtas.ie)

👤 **DeputySimonHarris**

📍 **@SimonHarrisTD**

**FINE GAEL**

**Cllr. Jennifer WHITMORE**

Candidate for Wicklow

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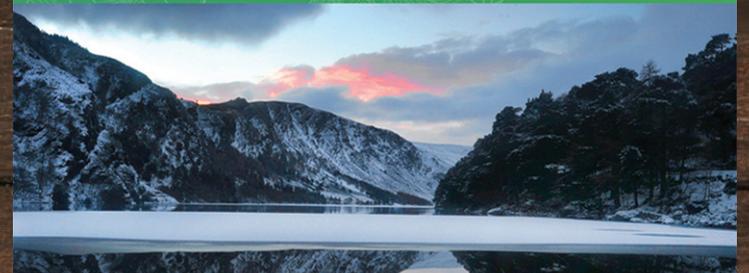
**Cllr. Joe BEHAN**  
INDEPENDENT



*Happy Christmas & Peaceful New Year*

- 📞 **Mobile: 086 8375602**
- ✉ **Email: joebehan@outlook.ie**
- 📘 **Facebook: indjoebehan**
- 🐦 **Twitter: @indjoebehan**
- 📷 **Instagram: indjoebehan**

**Pat Casey TD**



*Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas. Looking forward to working for you in 2019.*

Office will be closed from 4.00pm on Friday 21st December 2018 to 10.00am on Monday 7th January 2019.

**Contact me:**  
E: [pat.casey@oireachtas.ie](mailto:pat.casey@oireachtas.ie)  
T: 0402 42105 M: 086 264 9489

The Bluebell, Main Street, Arklow, Co. Wicklow



**Cllr. PAT FITZGERALD**

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL  
CATHAOIRLEACH ARKLOW  
MUNICIPALE DISTRICT

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**FIANNA FAIL**  
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY  
Commissioner for Oaths

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32 Oaklands Arklow, Co. Wicklow  
Email: [pfitzger@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:pfitzger@wicklowcoco.ie)

**ANDREW DOYLE TD**  
Minister of State for Food, Forestry & Horticulture

*Wishing you a very Happy & Safe Christmas and a Peaceful New Year*

**FINE GAEL**

Dept. of Agriculture: 01 607 2977  
Email: [minister.doyle@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:minister.doyle@agriculture.gov.ie)

Constituency Office: 0404 66622  
Email: [andrew.doyle@oireachtas.ie](mailto:andrew.doyle@oireachtas.ie)  
Website: [www.andrewdoyle.ie](http://www.andrewdoyle.ie)

*Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year*  
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**Cllr. Anne FERRIS**



# Christmas Greetings from your Local Businesses!



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# LOCAL Wicklow Times



# Christmas Greetings from your Local Businesses!

Wishing you all a Very Happy Christmas

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MERRY CHRISTMAS  
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**John McEvoy**  
& family





Pictured are members of Bray Soroptimists putting the finishing touches to shoe boxes for charity; Ann Acton; Denise Holland; Yvonne McWhirter; Mary Doyle; Clare Comerford (President); Pat McHugh; Mary Savage; Anny Verwijs; and Tanya Haak O'Riordan.

## Local businesses nominated for SFA Awards

Food at Fishers in Newtownmountkennedy has been nominated for a Small Firms Association 2020 award in the category of Food and Drink, while another Co. Wicklow company Interactions Research, has been announced as finalists for award in the category of Workplace Wellness. This will be the first year that the SFA has awards a business specifically for its approach to well-being.

'Food at Fishers' was opened in 2013, three years after Fishers was taken over by Rebecca Harrison, and the café has gone on to win awards. Interactions has been in business since 1993, and has made employee satisfaction a cornerstone of their growth and recruitment strategy long before 'wellness' was a cooperate buzzword. Over the years, the company noted that the majority of the high calibre researchers it looked to employ were women who were desperate to find balance. The Small Firms Association will announce the winners in all award categories on March 12th.

# Over a third of pet owners admit to spending more on pet than close relatives

As we approach that time of year when "Santa Paws" brings gifts to all the nice pets who managed to not knock down the Christmas tree or eat the tinsel, Maxi Zoo, Ireland's largest pet retailer, surveyed 1,000 people to find out how they and their pets celebrate the festive season.

Maxi Zoo's survey reveals the Christmas buying habits of pet owners, and it turns out that people aren't the only ones opening presents on Christmas morning, with 95% of people surveyed saying they will buy their pet a Christmas present.

Toys are the most popular choice for pet presents, followed closely by treats; with 80% of respondents saying these gifts are top of their wish list for their furry friends. The pet-present budget for 30% of pet parents is at least €25; with 31 survey respondents planning on really splashing out and spending over €100 on their beloved pet. Christmas typically brings out the magic, the generosity and the love in people.

Yet, according to the survey, that love is often directed more towards our furry four-legged companions than close relatives; and if you're related to 36% of pet owners surveyed, you can expect that

that person's pet to do better than you this holiday season in terms of the amount spent on them!

"Today more than ever, we know that pets are

Christmas is a great time to treat them!"

Maxi Zoo's stores nationwide have the "purrfect" Christmas presents for your pets. Feline fes-

allows for discreet storage of your cat's toilet, and includes a dividing wall for storing litter, shovels or other accessories.

Doggy delights include an "on-trend" red velvet bow tie (€4.00 - €5.00), that simply slides on to your dog's collar; and an LED Christmas Pudding snood (€6.00), a fun idea for Christmas pictures with your pet. Always big sellers are MultiFit's Pet Advent Calendars (€4.99), with pet appropriate snacks for cats, dogs and small animals; while Pet Selection Boxes (€7.50) containing dog safe chocolate are selling fast too!

For further information about Maxi Zoo's "Santa Paws" Day or finding the perfect Christmas present for your pet, chat to the pet experts at Maxi Zoo Bray at Unit 5 Bray Retail Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray, visit @MaxiZooIreland on Facebook, or www.maxi-zoo.ie.



treated as members of the family," said Anthony Cremin, Marketing Manager at Maxi Zoo, "The results confirm what we already knew; that pets are a very important source of friendship and love for pet parents, and

tive favourites include a cat nip bauble (€3), containing toys which can be hung on a Christmas tree to encourage cats to avoid playing with regular Christmas decorations; while for fancier felines, the Cat Cabinet (€99.99)

# Christmas Greetings

from your Local Businesses!

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# Irish Water appeals to the public to conserve water over Christmas

Irish Water and Local Authorities in the Greater Dublin Area are appealing to customers to conserve water where possible in a bid to reduce water usage during the busy Christmas period as demand on drinking water reaches record levels.

There has been a steady increase in demand over the past few weeks, as is normally the case prior to Christmas, and conserving water now will reduce the risk of restrictions on the water supply.

The current increase in demand is higher than any previous year and is 10 million litres a day, (enough water to fill Liberty Hall), higher than this time last year. As work continues on the old Leixlip Water Treatment Plant, water production capacity has been reduced and we are asking customers to help us manage demand while we replace filters and upgrade the plant.

Simple water conservation efforts can have a significant impact on driving down demand on the supply. Irish Water is appealing to customers to con-

serve water through actions such as turning off the tap while brushing your teeth and shaving which can save up to 6 litres of water per minute. Keeping a jug of water in the fridge instead of running the cold tap can save 10 litres of water per day. For more tips on how to reduce your water usage please visit [water.ie/conservation/](http://water.ie/conservation/)

Speaking about the water supply in the GDA, John O Donoghue, Irish Water, said: "Irish Water is appealing to the public to conserve water where possible and to only use what they need. We've seen demand creeping up in recent weeks and there is currently no headroom in the system. Safe, clean, treated water is not in unlimited supply and we all have to play a part in conserving it. During the

drought last year, the conservation measures that people were taking in their homes and businesses helped to significantly reduce demand. However, when the urgency of a drought passes, and in the middle of winter, it is easy to lose focus on how precious water is. Our priority is to maintain the water supply and to avoid placing restrictions and in order to do this we need the public's support."

"With our Local Authority partners, Irish Water is fixing leaks and upgrading the water supply system. As part of our leakage reduction programme, Irish Water has replaced almost 90km of water mains in the Greater Dublin Area since 2018, which is the equivalent of two M50s. Overall, we have seen a reduction in the leakage rate which

now stands at 37% in the Dublin area."

Irish Water is currently upgrading the Vartry Water Supply Scheme by building a new treatment plant, and upgrading the treated water reservoir at Stillorgan, representing an investment of approximately 200 million. These upgrades are due to be completed in 2020.

At the Leixlip Water Treatment Plant, the old section of the plant is currently being upgraded on a phased basis. This process is being accelerated as quickly and safely as possible while still maintaining supply to the Greater Dublin Area.

To report a leak please contact Irish Water on 1850 278 278. For more information on water conservation please visit [www.water.ie/conservation](http://www.water.ie/conservation)



Pictured at the switching on of the Christmas lights in Tinahely last weekend were Sinead Whelan and Maisy Fitzgerald

## Age friendly walkability survey conducted in Wicklow Town

Councillors Gail Dunne (FF) and Paul O'Brien (Lab) have called on Wicklow County Council to implement the findings of a survey conducted recently by Age Friendly Action with immediate effect.

A walkability survey was carried out in Wicklow Town by the group along with members of staff of the Municipal Council by taking a walk through the Town. The route for the walk started at the Town Hall, Market Square, proceeded down the Main Street to Fitzwilliam Square, right at Phil Healy's and followed up Church Street, left onto Wentworth Place then crossed over Pedestrian Crossing at Tennis Club and crossed at Traffic Lights at the Old Forge and continued back up the Main Street to the Wicklow Gaol.

It is believed that the main areas that were examined in the survey were the footpaths, crossings, parking, aesthetics and public spaces, also discussed were the state of the footpaths along the main street in Wicklow Town.

Cllr Dunne stated that the findings of this survey were based on a very positive walk through Wicklow Town, the survey stated that the walk was extremely easy even though Wicklow is a very hilly Town. The walk took in places that older people are likely to use or visit. Cllr Dunne went on to say that the people involved enjoyed participating in the survey and were most appreciative of what is being done and what the survey aspires to do with the footpaths in the Town. The paths are quite wide in places and



Cllr Paul O'Brien

there were a few obstacles on the footpaths Cllr Dunne explained. The survey also highlighted the fact that there were also quite a few wheelie bins which had been emptied but were not put back by businesses and residents.

Cllr Dunne and Cllr O'Brien met recently to discuss the Age friendly Walkability survey and how best to implement the surveys findings. "I was delighted when Cllr Dunne contacted me to discuss this survey as we have struck up an excellent working partnership. We are both passionate about our home Town and we will always work together to do what we can for Wicklow Town" stated Cllr O'Brien

The survey noted that there was very little litter on the footpaths on the day the survey was conducted and that there was no dog fouling visible, overall the survey noted that the Town was very tidy. The survey went on to say that the litter bins are very big and where there is overcrowding in some areas of the footpaths, it was

because the bin was too big. Both Councillors agreed with the survey when it praised the efforts of the Tidy Towns who do so much to improve the Town. The Councillors also agreed with the survey when it stated that there were some derelict looking buildings which would benefit from being painted or being renovated and reopened.

Both Councillors stated that they will now work with the Council and other public bodies to ensure that the findings of the survey are addressed as soon as possible. For example they will work on getting shelters on bus stops that have none and that the disabled bays in the Town are in good locations and are freshly painted.

"We also have to identify any Age friendly parking and make sure we prioritise them and also repair the footpaths where there are loose bricks and kerbing stated Cllr O'Brien and we need to ensure that the owners of the wheelie bins are written to and advised



Cllr Gail Dunne

that the bins once emptied should not be left on the footpath as they may cause an obstruction".

Cllr Dunne stated "We want to make sure that the old phone boxes are removed as they are now redundant and also that the lights at the Grant Hotel are lengthened as I believe it took two attempts for the group to cross the road during the survey".

On the question of cost, Cllr Dunne said "during our recent budget meeting some likeminded Councillors got together and negotiated with Council officials that the €300,000 in lieu of the rates from Irish Water, plus another €100,000 should go to each Municipal district. Cllr O'Brien and I are now advocating that the Wicklow Municipal's portion of this money goes towards these much-needed improvement works in Wicklow Town, which in fairness are badly needed. We just hope our fellow Councillors supports us in this move, especially the ones from the Town."

Cllr O'Brien confirmed that the decision in how the money will be spent shall be decided early in the New Year.

"For far too long the County Town has been ignored and I am delighted that Cllr Dunne and myself have teamed up yet again to bring much needed improvements to our hometown," stated Cllr O'Brien.

## Greystones Municipal District honours Commodore Malone

It is almost two years since local Greystones man, Commodore Michael Malone was promoted to the rank of Flag Officer Commanding Naval Service, the first engineer to have command of the naval service.

To mark the achievement, a special presentation was made to him last Thursday at the Greystones Municipal District offices. Commodore Malone was presented with a signed copy of 'A Pictorial History of Greystones & Its Coastal Environs 1760 to 2018', selected for him because of its maritime theme.

St. David's Head Girl, Carolann McDonald, and Head Boy, Stephen Bowes, were also in attendance at the presentation, as Commodore Malone is a graduate from the school.

Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District Cllr Councillor Fortune paid tribute to Commodore Malone for reaching this very senior position.

Commodore Malone gave an outline of his work with the Irish Naval Service, outlining his engineering training, which formed a pathway to his eventual position of FOCNS.

The six Municipal District Councillors congratulated him on his commission. Councillor Derek Mitchell noted the work in the Naval Service in protecting Ireland's coastline. Councillor Gerry Walsh pointed out that the Commodore's love of sports stood him in good stead.

Michael's family moved to Greystones from Kerry, and his father was from Kilkenny originally and his mother from Dublin. Michael grew up in Rathdown Park in Greystones and joined the Irish Navy in 1981 after he left St. David's Holy Faith secondary school. He went in as an engineer and rose through the ranks, with many years of service on many ships, and also worked as a shipbuilder.

He started as a marine engineering cadet and was commissioned as an officer two years later. As a captain he held the appointment of Officer Commanding Naval Support Command, and he was also programme manager for the design and building of the Irish Navy's P60 class offshore patrol vessels (OPVs). He was the resident engineer at Appledore shipyard.

He attended Cork Regional Technical College where he studied marine and plant engineering, and the Royal Naval Engineering College in England where he completed a marine engineering application course.



Commodore Michael Malone with Cathaoirleach Tom Fortune, Kathleen Kelleher, and St. David's pupils Carolann McDonald and Stephen Bowes.



# Local business owners aiming high for 2020

Nineteen County Wicklow based business owners graduated from an intensive management programme on Thursday 12th December 2019, at a ceremony held at the Glenview Hotel.

The Local Enterprise Office Wicklow (LEO Wicklow) organise the prestigious 'Management Development Programme (MDP)' each year which gives experienced business owners the chance to rethink their business strategies, examine their pricing and profitability, and discover how to grow their businesses. The Programme, which is led by renowned international business consultant and author Blaise Brosnan, is accredited at level seven on the national framework of qualifications by The Institute of Technology Carlow. Presenting the certificates were CE of Wicklow County Council, Frank Curran, Head of Lifelong Learning at Wicklow County Campus, Dr. Joe Collins, and Head of Enterprise at LEO Wicklow, Vibeke Delahunt.

Speaking at the event Frank Curran reiterated the importance of small business to the County saying "the ability of businesses like yours to succeed and grow in County Wicklow underpins our future potential for jobs, growth and prosperity. The Management Development Programme is provided by the LEO Wicklow in order to strengthen your capabilities as managers of your businesses and

support you to sustain and grow your business. Wicklow County Council is fully committed to continuing to support your efforts to realise the development and growth of your businesses into the future".

Participants on the programme spoke about their own experience of transforming their businesses thinking over the course of the programme and the significant benefits of having formed a close trusted business network which will be an on-going resource. There was a great atmosphere of positivity and energy in the room and both the graduating participants and those businesses were CE of Wicklow County Council, Frank Curran, Head of Lifelong Learning at Wicklow County Campus, Dr. Joe Collins, and Head of Enterprise at LEO Wicklow has provided the 'Management Development Programme' to local business owners, and more than 420 businesses have taken part over the years.

The 'MDP' is open to small local businesses (less than ten employees), that are established (approximately more than two years in business) and wish to grow. The programme is always very popular, and by the LEO Wicklow in order to strengthen your capabilities as managers of your businesses and to

commencing in 2020, please email [enterprise@leo.wicklow-coco.ie](mailto:enterprise@leo.wicklow-coco.ie).

The new Spring training programme will be commencing in early January 2020. To book on any of the many excellent short courses go to [www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow](http://www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow) and look at the Training



Pictured at the presentation of parchments for the Management Development Programme last week in the Glenview Hotel were Karl Kenny, Grace Kenny, and Annette Rowsome, Local Enterprise Office Wicklow. Pic: Joe Keogh

## 30 YEARS OF SERVIER IN ARKLOW

Servier in Arklow recently celebrated 30 years in business. Visiting the business to mark the occasion, Minister Simon Harris said "Servier is a great success story for Arklow and South Wicklow. From 20 employees in 1989 there are now over 350 employed at the Arklow plant.

"In addition to providing high quality skilled employment Servier have been good corporate citizens in Wicklow providing much needed support to local community groups and local schools. "The presence of the French ambassador at today's celebration demonstrates the strong bonds that Servier has built between the local community and France. I look forward to the next 30 years of Servier's development"

Pictured with Minister Harris are Gilles Belloir, Des Murphy, French Ambassador to Ireland Stepane Crouzat, Michael Lohan, Pierre Venesque, General Manager of Servier Arklow Augustin Blanc, Bret Harrington, and Martin Wolohan.

## A long time a-growin'

Paul Sexton's passion for Christmas trees hasn't diminished over the almost 70 years he's been selling them.

Now 87 years of age and semi-retired, Paul is possibly Ireland's oldest seller of Christmas trees, from his garden centres in Glen of the Downs and Foxrock which still run in the family.

Paul has a love for Christmas and Christmas trees that hasn't left him since he sold his first Christmas tree in 1952 when he was just 20. That was a year after he won the Macra na Feirme national competition in 1951 and went on to represent Ireland at the Royal Cambridge Agricultural Show. This early success convinced Paul that he should start his own business.

Paul's Christmas trees over the years have supplied many supermarkets nationwide. His garden centre in Glen of the Downs opened in 1978, and is one of if not the oldest garden centre in Ireland.

Over 500 people have been employed by Paul over the years, and one of his proudest achievements is the Rehab prepacking business which he began in 1971, giving employment to people with special needs in the prepackaging of bulbs.

Paul's fantastic story isn't over yet. Over the years Paul has given opportunities to other businesses by letting out display plots. Horkans Garden Centres are the anchor operators. To find out more, see [paulsextongardencentre.com](http://paulsextongardencentre.com).



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# Luan Parle to play the Mermaid in January

Wicklow singer-songwriter Luan Parle has announced her 2020 Irish tour which kicks off in The Mermaid Arts Centre on Friday January 17th to coincide with the first single release from her new album.



The Meteor & Tatler Award winner has had numerous hits and accolades including Meteor Award for Best Irish Female. Her top 10 hit single 'Ghost' spent three months in the Irish Charts and was the most played Irish single of that year.

Parle signed her first record deal at just 12 years of age before later signing with Sony Music & Elton John's management company Twenty First Artists.

Luan has written and

recorded with some of the worlds most successful songwriters and producers including Grammy award winning Bill Bottrell (Sheryl Crow, Michael Jackson, Prince, Travelling Wilburys, Elton John) & Billy Steinberg (Madonna, Roy Orbison, Cyndi Lauper, The Pretenders, Whitney Houston, The Bangles, Celine Dion).

Luan will be playing songs from her new album 'Never Say Goodbye' which will be released February 7th 2020. The

album features 10 original tracks including two co-writes with Dire Straits guitarist Hal Lindes. This will be the fourth album release from the Wicklow born songstress. She will be accompanied by renowned guitarist Clive Barnes. Tickets are onsale now from [www.mermaid-artscentre.ie](http://www.mermaid-artscentre.ie) or by calling the box office on 01 2724030

## Enjoy Christmas with less waste

Two simple ways to achieve that goal is to produce less food waste and recycle more after Christmas, that is the message from Wicklow County Council for the festive season.

Leftovers after the big meal on Christmas day, or parties, don't have to be put in the bin. Think about ways to reuse them with turkey easily frozen and used in recipes after the big day.

There will lots of packaging waste in households after Christmas so make sure to recycle it.

The Council's advice is to gather all the recycling, keep it clean, dry and loose to maximise the quality. Older electrical items which are replaced by new ones at Christmas can be recycled by either bringing it to the shop where you purchased it or to the local recycling centre.

And finally, when it comes to taking down the Christmas tree remember Wicklow County Council provides a free recycling service for shredding real trees at different locations around the county.



Students aged 3-16 years from Junior & Youth Musicals in Bray performed in three sold out shows in The Mermaid on Sunday 8th December. The show featured excerpts from the musicals Grease and lots more and was very well received.

## RECRUITMENT



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Health Service Executive

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If you would like to join our team please email May Kavanagh Director of Nursing [may.kavanagh@hse.ie](mailto:may.kavanagh@hse.ie) or telephone 0404 46109 ext 204/220 to talk to May or arrange a visit of the centre.

Closing Date for Applications: Wednesday 8th January 2020.

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

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



### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I, Brigid Kennedy seek permission for renovation and extension of the existing one and two storey farmhouse & barn (ground floor 109.9m2/first floor 23.0m2) to include rear ground floor (21.7m2) and first floor (60.6m2) extensions, giving the house a total gross floor area of 215.2m2, general renovation including restoration of stonework, insulation, windows and roof, and associated landscaping and site works, including the relocation of the existing site entrance and the installation of a new wastewater treatment system and percolation area at Lugnagroagh, Blakestown Upper, Blessington, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I, Noel Heatley seek planning permission for a revised house type and site layout at site No.4 The Woodlands. The application will consist of a new two storey dwelling (Type A), a revised site layout - floor level to that granted permission under Reg Ref 16-873, together with connection to existing services and all associated site works at No. 4 The Woodlands, Burken Hall, Friars Hill, Wicklow, 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.

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### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I, Patrick O'Brien, seeks permission for the change of use of existing domestic garage (37.485m2) to a residential dwelling which shall include: 1. New side extension to existing structure (21.42m2) incorporating 1 bedroom with ensuite bathroom, 2. New rear extension to existing structure (6.87m2) incorporating W.C facility and utility room providing rear access, 3. Modifications to the west and south facing elevations of the existing structure including as part of the proposals a new relocated front door entrance, 4. Connection to the public sewer network and public water supply and 5. All other ancillary site works at Kilmacullagh, Newtownmountkennedy, 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

We, Powertique Ltd, intend to apply for retention permission & permission for development at the Royal Hotel, Main St, Bray, Co. Wicklow. The development consists of/will consist of (a) retention of signage and (b) the proposed installation of linear LED lighting on the front elevation of the Royal Hotel, Main Street, Bray, County 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.

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The deadline for applications is **12 noon on Thursday 19th December 2019.**

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